

UFO'S: A History
1946:
The Ghost Rockets

By A Third Edition?

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UFO'S A HISTORY: 1946: THE GHOST ROCKETS (Previous title: The Mystery of the Ghost Rockets)

by

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Why A Third Edition?

Aside from the need to replenish depleted stock, additional new data of importance has come to the author's attention. Impressive efforts by Thomas Bullard* has resulted in the collection and translation of numerous 1946 newstories taken from issues of the Swedish newspapers Svenska Dagbladet and the Morgon-Tidningen, both avid reporters of the "ghost bomb" activity. These two sources provide considerable depth to our understanding of what really happened in Scandinavian skies in the year 1946.

Another reason for a third edition is the need to make the work more useful to UFO researchers by adding an index, something that was lacking from both earlier editions.

Finally, an ambitious research endeavor by European UFO experts is currently underway so there is a need to discuss its goals and progress. Termed "Project 1946" by its planners, Anders Liljegren and Clas Svahn, it hopefully will provide something approaching a definitive study of the mystery.

-The U.S. Department of State documents concerning the Scandinavian ghost rockets were discovered by UFO researcher William L. Moore of William L. Moore Publications & Research, 4219 West Olive Street, Suite 247, Burbank, California, 91505.

-Material added to the third edition is in a closer-spaced type.

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More notes on sources:

An important contribution has been the work of the Swedish organization Arbetsgruppen for Ufologi which checked newsstories on file at the Stockholm National Archives of the Swedish news agency (TT). Moreover, additional news items were culled by the group from issues of some 20 different local Swedish newspapers. The result of this work was the booklet Spokraketrna 1946 Nyhetsbyramaterialet which contains details of some 150 "rocket" reports and other items of interest (Most of the trans- from the Swedish to English was this writer's efforts, therefore I take the responsibility for any errors --L.E. Gross).

A Swedish UFO expert, researcher Biron Overbye, discovered a number of newsstories missed by the Liljegren group. Overbye published his findings in the May/June 1969 issue of the British magazine Flying Saucer Review. The material was taken primarily from a single Swedish newspaper, the Dagens Nyheta.

The efforts of Don Berliner were very important. Searching the archives of the Smithsonian Institute's National Air & Space Museum, he discovered two vital documents:

-Five folio pages of a declassified report by British Intelligence concerning the sighting of ghost rockets over Norway and Sweden in 1946. Although sceptical of the strangeness of the phenomenon, the papers reveal interesting detail on official reaction to the mystery.

-A Swedish Army Intelligence evaluation of its investigation into sightings of strange "missile" activity in the skies over Scandinavia. This evaluation indicates that a more comprehensive report exists and modern researchers are working to obtain it.

THE MYSTERY OF THE GHOST ROCKETS

An American C-54 transport plane was 7,000 feet over the French countryside on its way to Paris. Some 3,000 feet below the plane was a layer of broken clouds, but above that the sky was clear. It was 11 o'clock at night on January 18, 1946. The flight was uneventful until suddenly the pilot of the C-54 saw a brilliant "shooting star" appear 35 degrees above the horizon. The "shooting star" streaked downward without exploding. The brilliant blob dropped below the eastern horizon, but then, much to the pilot's surprise, the "shooting star" quickly reappeared! The "shooting star" came back into view and: "...described a tiny hyperbola of perhaps of one degree altitude and fell again from sight." 1. Those were the words of the pilot who felt that the "shooting star" did the impossible by ricocheting or rebounding. This event marked the beginning of numerous sightings of strange phenomenon in the skies of Europe.

The first inkling of a wild year was an announcement on February 26, 1946. Finland announced on that date over Helsinki radio that an unusually large number of meteors had been reported in the country's northern districts near the Arctic Circle. 2.

A little over a week later on May 3rd an unexplained white light lit up the horizon northwest of Stockholm. Authorities at Saltsjobad Observatory suggested that an aurora glow had been responsible. The newspaper Morgon-Tidningen asked: "Does a mysterious light betoken clearer May weather?" 3.

On Friday, May 24th at 2:20 a.m. observers in the Landskrona-Pasten area of Sweden viewed a strange flying body:

"Two nightwatchmen said the object was a fireball with a tail object was a fireball with a tail." A repairman working several stories above the ground, gave a more detailed account, saying the object was: "...a wingless, cigar-shaped body of the dimensions of a small airplane, which at regular intervals spurted bunches of sparks from its tail." 4.

Witnesses estimated that the object was only 300 feet high as it moved at an "ordinary airplane's speed" toward the southwest. 5.

People finally began to wonder if something very odd was taking place. The May 28th issue of the Morgon-Tidningen declared:

"It is not only in Landskrona and Gavle that fireballs and lighted...(word missing) without wings are seen. Also from Karlskrona and Helsingborg are similar observations reported, and many persons in the Stockholm area stated to the MT that they saw the same phenomenon in Huddings and Hagalund.

No one really knows what is going on. One guess is of experiments with secret weapons, but aviation experts think that in

such a case it is curious that no sound is reported in connection with observations - long range bombing practice gives off noise." 6.
The Danes too.

An AP dispatch stated on May 29th:

"The same night that people in Landskrona saw a flying object which flew toward the southwest at about 100 meters altitude, a border guard in Denmark's southern-lying parish, Rudbol, at Tonder, made a similar discovery.

"At 3 o'clock at night the guard saw a bright light, followed by a tail, which very rapidly sailed on a path from east to west, reports the Berlingake Aftenavis." 7.

Late in May many people in northern Sweden had noticed unusual sights in the heavens which which they dismissed as just inordinate meteor activity. 8.

By this time, authorities in Sweden were fully alert. Official papers declare:

"At the end of May 1946, there was brought to the attention of the Defense Staff, certain peculiar luminous phenomena over Sweden, partly through press reports, and partly by civilian observers, who reported their observations directly to the military authorities." 9.

"Mysterious flier."

A June 1st newsstory from the Swedish city of Katrineholm informed its readers:

"It seems as if the mysterious flier, which was observed in Osternarks at the beginning of this week, was not altogether an illusion. Yesterday the same thing was reported in fact in Katrineholm. An object which can be compared to a silver-glittering rocket, in the shape of a giant cigar, was noticed in the east on the horizon. The time was 11:43 a.m. in the morning.

"The 'ghost airplane' had no hint of wings, but on the other hand some thought that it had the semblance of a stabilizer or the like. It traveled very rapidly through the air and many observers pointed out that not even the fastest fighter plane would be able to keep pace. A light rumble was heard, near the object after it had made a turn toward the west, in a diving continued trip (?) toward the south. The size of the mysterious monster did not agree with that of the one seen at Narke, neither was the altitude the same....the projectile, or whatever it might be, was as long as an ordinary training plane and went at 300 meters altitude. The Skavata air fleet out from Nykoping had none of its airplanes up at the right time in the immediate vicinity of Katrineholm. On an airplane seen from the side in broad daylight no wings are visible. Therefore it could be assumed that it was an ordinary airplane that the Katrineholmers saw.

"In this connection it can still be mentioned that one of the Katrinholm witnesses saw the object not only from the side but also front to back. The sun's rays in this case were not at their worst sharpness, therefore one with reason can uphold it all as very mysterious." 10.

Early in June 1946, it appeared that airpower was gaining the influence it had hoped to achieve. Rear Admiral Sidney W. Souers, who had just been chosen to head the newly established Central Intelligence Agency in January, was suddenly replaced with an Air Force General, Hoyt S. Vandenburg.

When the Bikini atomic tests in the Pacific started, Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, one of the key men of the scientific commission selected to observe the tests, was withdrawn, and replaced with a scientist who had a more varied background and an extensive knowledge of radar, rockets, and atomic energy. He was the Director of the Bureau of Standards, Dr. E. U. Condon. The move underlined the shift from atomic theory to the military application of atomic power.

A Dr. Alvarez, a professor of physics at the University of California, secretly suggested at this time that liquid hydrogen be tested as the fluid propellant in any proposed atomic powered rocket because of the element's favorable ratio of mass compared to the exhaust velocity at certain temperatures. The technical details are too complex to list here, but one important point of this theory was of interest. The professor believed such a nuclear driven rocket would speed across the sky leaving large quantities of super-heated and highly inflammable hydrogen in its wake, thus creating an explosive hazard.⁶ The eventual development of such an atomic driven missile was felt to be far in the future, so in May, 1946, when mysterious missile-like bodies trailing strange illuminous smoke and accompanied by loud, unexplained detonations appeared over the Baltic, there must have been some concern in the Pentagon.

Sunday night, June 9, 1946, a "light phenomenon" appeared above Sala, Sweden. An enormous light dropped earthward leaving a long fiery trail behind. Shortly thereafter, an explosion was heard.¹¹

Also on June 9th at 10:17 p.m., a rocket-like light filled the night sky over Helsinki, Finland. People there rushed outdoors in time to see a smoke trail in the heavens and to hear a distant rumble. An illuminous afterglow lasted ten minutes. This "ghost rocket," as it was dubbed by witnesses, had passed toward the southwest at an altitude of about 1,000 feet.

A professor Gustaf Jarnefelt said he believed the object was a normal meteorite, an opinion that was quoted in the newspaper Nya Pressen.¹²

Before the Finns could recover from the Sunday phenomenon, a "V-2" roared over the town of Tammerfors in western Finland on Monday, June 10th, only to reappear the same night on a southeast heading over the capital, Helsinki. A correspondent of the London Daily Mail wrote that Monday's "V-2" was an "unidentified luminous body" giving off glowing smoke and that the "thing" had come in from the direction of the Baltic Sea, only to wheel around and retrace its course. 13.

The "sky phenomenon" of June 12th:

"A sky phenomenon of the same sort as was observed yesterday has occurred over Eskilstuna [Sweden]. The observation is reported by an engineer who flies daily and must be thought of as a reliable observer.

"--I had just put out [the light] and stood by my window when in the half-darkness I was able to see something come out of a cloud, related the engineer. The bomb, if it really was such, passed west of the city in a northward direction. It seemed as if it was on a descending course at close to a 30-degree angle--on this matter I can naturally not be completely sure--and in such a case ought to have fallen down somewhere in the area, probably going out north over Hugelata. It could not have been any of our new jet planes, which have a continuous exhaust and thereby look like true rockets. The later V-weapons did the same, but the first had intermittent exhaust. 14.

"Strange luminous phenomenon."

"At 10:20 p.m. on Thursday evening [June 20th] there was observed again a strange luminous phenomenon in the sky. It was also obvious that a meteor was concerned. The luminosity, which was plainly perceptible against the light summer evening [sky?] moved slowly forward in a direction from south to north, and flamed red. According to the observer's opinion the meteor ought to have fallen down somewhere in the Pellinga area of Nylands island." 15.

The Swedish Defense Staff on June 12th ordered all military personnel to report any observation of unusual phenomenon to higher headquarters. Swedish military attaches in Norway and Denmark were also requested to collect information about strange sky objects seen flying over the country where they were stationed. 16.

Dr. Wernher von Braun, the German scientist who knew the most about the V-2 rocket program, had reached the United States with a select group of ex-Peenemunde rocket scientists and was getting oriented to his new surroundings in New Mexico, when an urgent confidential message was sent him from Washington. Dated June 24th, the message was from a worried U.S. military Intelligence. According to a Major Hamill, Dr. von Braun's American assistant, the message was a request for answers to "disturbing" questions.

It seems that the War Department wanted an immediate

evaluation of the German rocket technicians left in the Soviet zone of occupied Germany and how long it might take such experts to perfect an intercontinental missile.

Dr. von Braun knew of only two engineers who had sufficient knowledge of the over-all German V-2 rocket program and were clever enough to organize a long-range rocket development group. Any success by such group, he asserted, would no doubt take quite some time.¹⁷

On July 3, 1946, most of the serious squabbling between the Army Air Force and the Navy was settled by the establishment of a joint Research and Development Board which received its authority directly from the civilian posts of the Secretaries of the Navy and War. The various military boards and committees, with their overlapping authority and spheres of operation concerning military research, were reorganized into just four subcommittees. Furthermore, various civilian research organizations were better coordinated with Defense Department projects, such as the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics and the Bureau of Standards.

On July 6, 1946, General H. H. Arnold, retired wartime Commander of the Army Air Force, addressed the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco, echoing the assertions General Doolittle had made the previous December when he stated that the defensive frontiers of the United States were no longer the Pacific and Atlantic coasts, but the Polar regions to the north. The editor of Radio News, a Mr. Oliver Reed, gave support to another contention of General Doolittle's, when, upon returning to the United States after witnessing the Bikini atomic test on June 30th, he told the Chicago Daily Tribune that, as far as he was concerned, there could be little doubt that atomic-tipped missiles would be used in the next war.

Monday, July 8th, a Mr. J. B. Strand of Norrköping, Sweden, observed a fast moving ball-shaped object on an eastward course. The object was gray and appeared to be a half meter in diameter. No sound was heard.¹⁸

Approximately 30 reports had been recorded by the Swedish Defense Staff by July 8th.¹⁹ The Swedish newspaper Svenska Dagbladet carried comment by the American columnist Marquis Childs that claimed "higher circles" in the United States believed Sweden had become a secret weapon test area.²⁰

Tuesday, July 9th, was a big day perhaps because a large meteor was visible over a wide region at 2:30 p.m. From the city of Lyrestadsbo came a report at 2:30 p.m. of a flying object that left a "glittering wake" after it came down out of the sky at a 35 degree angle and was believed to have hit the ground somewhere on a line between Otterslatten and Hova-Algaras.²¹

A phenomenon was visible in Stockholm on July 9th at 2:30 p.m., appearing as a bright luminous body with a blue-green tail. Fragments were found and sent to Stockholm to be examined. The chief of Sweden's Armed Forces discussed the case with the press, stressing that the military was continuing to check sightings and that civilians should phone the nearest military post, or to write Swedish military headquarters in the nation's capital if they observed anything unusual. 22.

At a city with the long name of Kristinehamnstrakten a fiery light, at 2:30 p.m., July 9th, was seen. Apparently, the phenomenon was witnessed at Bjorkeland, although those at the latter city also mention seeing a "bullet-like tube" zooming out of the southeast and disappearing to the northeast. 23.

In Hagfors in Varmland a comet-like object was seen at 2:35 p.m., Tuesday July 9th. The "projectile" came from the north in a steep dive toward Lake Ullen. At Ravber it was seen to extinguish itself a couple of meters above the surface of a body of water but that did not preclude that it first hit the mountain, according to three eyewitnesses. 24.

"ROCKET PROJECTILES HAVE TAKEN OVER THE GHOST FLIER'S ROLE" headlined the Swedish newspaper Morgon-Tidningen on July 10th.

"Just after 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 9th, a couple of Vaxholm residents on the north side of Vaxon sighted a mysterious object, travelling at an unheard-of speed, came out of empty space and after just a couple of seconds disappeared behind the island in a south-eastern direction. The object, which appeared to be a glowing white in color and oblong in shape with a blunt nose, had a blue-white tail.

"The same phenomenon was witnessed as well from Jarna station by a Bjorknas resident who described the object as having a shape like a glass flask in a thermos. The color was said to be silver white and the object was seen descending from an high altitude in an eastern direction." 25.

Ockelbo:

"In Ockelbo a similar phenomenon was seen. Mr. Efrain Johnson of Gungarden, who was one of those who made the sighting, states that at exactly 2:35 p.m. he caught sight of a strange cigar-like, or sugar loaf-like, object over the weeds to the east. The object shone like silver and appeared like some glistening mass. It tumbled right down against the ground and was gone in a few moments. 26.

A correspondent for the Svenska Dagbladet reported:

"A couple of meteors falls took place on Tuesday in Dalarna, in Soderbarke, and in Mockfjard. On Tuesday afternoon a housewife in Huggnora was busy washing on the shore of lake Barken when she saw a falling object, which came at great speed out of the northeast. It was changing from blue to green as it travelled and had a long tail. It tumbled into the lake at about 100 meters distance from the observer at Hedudden outside Sorbo. At this time a strong wind was

feared[shock wave?] was feared yet nothing was perceived. The water is quite deep at the place of the fall."

"At almost the same time, at half past three in the afternoon, a young man in Mockjard observed a silver-colored star which with great speed and a whistling noise,dived toward the ground. It came down about 150 meters from the young man who was blinded by a intense light given off by the object. For that reason the young man cannot state any exact impact point but it must have hit Mt. Landholm. A strong burning smell lingered over the area for a quarter of an hour afterward. The terrain in the area is covered with heather and moss, and is located in a good-sized hollow." 27.

Stockholm and other areas:

"A mysterious phenomenon of the heavens--a meteor or a radio-directed projectile--was seen at midday, Tuesday, July 9th, over the east coast. It was a brightly reflecting ball with a long tail, which was seen in the Stockholm area and also up in Medelpad.

"In the Stockholm area the ball was observed around 2:30 p.m. o'clock. The ball, which shone with an intensely white light, was around 1/3 the moon's diameter and the tail 10-12 moon diameters long. The projectile moved in a direction from west to east. Somewhat later there was seen a similar ball in various places in Medelpad, and it is not impossible that it was the same phenomenon. The ball, which resembled a 'comet with a blue-white trail after it,' had an easterly course. Also, it was observed from LV5 [?], where the projectile was seen to rush from over the Sodm mountains at a low height. In Nedansjo and Norhassel as well, similar observations were made. In Nedanejo the projectile made a curve and descended, leaving a green streak and a 40-50 meters long tail of fire. It is not thought improbable that the projectile approached over land and later turned. A phenomenon of this type is known to be observed daily off the Norrland coast for the last few days in the Cavle area." 28.

On July 9th, something passed low over several places in Sweden's Medelpad district shortly before 2:35 in the afternoon heading in a northeast direction toward the sea-coast.¹⁶ This report was only a drop in the bucket because some 250 reports were made on the 9th.

Another of the many July 9th sightings told of a couple of ball-shaped things zipping over the city of Edslyn at 10:10 p.m. The objects were flying parallel in a northwest direction. One witness believed he heard a "monotonous" sound during the passage. At 10:30 p.m. witnesses at Farila reported a "spook flyer." 29.

Near Turku City, Finland, on July 9th, something odd was spotted:

"Many people saw, at 15:35 local hours, a rocket-like object flying at great speed from South to North. It was so bright and red that it cast shadows on the ground. There was a short trail behind it. The weather at the time was sunny and no clouds were visible. 30.

July 10th:

The Chicago Daily Tribune's overseas news service said that an important Stockholm newspaper had declared on July 10th that in the previous twenty-four hours shining ball-like objects, of blue-green color with flaming tails of a similar hue had been seen over Sweden. As the objects were reported high in the sky and traveling at great speed, the Stockholm Aftonbladet suggested that the objects were the result of Russian missile tests. The newspaper further stated that up to ten reports of similar flying objects had been reported in the month of May over Finland as well as Sweden. The Chicago Tribune reported that after questioning military experts, reporters for the Aftonbladet learned that, in the experts' opinion, the reported objects could not be termed "celestial phenomena" due to the large number of sightings. Furthermore, these experts speculated that the strange missiles must be of Soviet origin and that they must contain recording instruments which enabled the Russians to return the mysterious rockets to their launching point. 31.

On the same day a news dispatch from Stockholm told of the continuing mystery:

"Lights in the sky resembling meteors observed from different parts of the country, are puzzling the people in Sweden. No reliable explanation has been given, although similar phenomena observed in the past have always proved to be astronomical." 32.

On the other hand, Swedish authorities were very active:

"On the initiative of the Defense Staff and Aviation Administration, a committee was established 10 July consisting of members of the Defense Staff, Aviation Staff, Naval Administration, Air Administration, the Defense Research Institution, and the Defense Radio Institution to handle this matter. Colonel Bengt Jacobsson was in America, Major Cerwall of the Defense Staff served as chairman.

"Through this committee the investigation was intensified. Within the Defense Staff, all reports regarding this matter were summarized and forwarded to the Air Administration and Air Defense Sections. Personnel were sent out both from the Defense Staff and the Air Administration section to evaluate important reports. In addition, the Defense Staff directed special investigations by military units upon receipt of impact reports. Liaison with the civilian authorities--including the Custom authorities--and the Iotte Kar, as well as the Stockholm Observatory, was established. In connection with a communique of 10 July the

population was requested to send reports of their observations to the Defense Staff." 33.

More July 10th reports.

At 2:30 p.m., July 10th, at Stockholm, a cigar-shaped object was spotted:

"...its breadth was a half-moon diameter and its length was ten or perhaps twelve times the diameter of moon. It was bluish like a comet." 34.

Also in the Varmland district at Hagfors a "comet-like" object was observed at 2:35 p.m. It came out of the north in a steep dive and appeared to splash into Lake Ullen. 35.

Perhaps the same object was seen in the Dalarna district where many persons reported a fall of a "projectile" at 2:35 p.m. Reports came in from the cities of Rommehed, Borlange, Norrby and Falun, describing an object with a long tail. At Soderbarke a woman claimed that a blue-green, tear-shaped object approached out of the northeast and plunged into Lake Barken. At Mockfjard the fall of a "projectile" was marked by a strong smell of something burning. 36.

Likewise, witnesses in the cities of Satterbo, Borrum, and Pampusbadet, reported a white glowing object leaving a smokey wake at the time of 2:30 p.m. At Finspang an explosion was heard as a blue-white object passed overhead at great velocity. 37.

"A notable find?" A report said:

"A rather notable find on the beach was made by a journalist on Wednesday [July 10th] afternoon when he found a rust-colored, porous little thing, which bore a very plain mark which was situated next to some cylinder-like object.

"While the rust-colored bit's surface was uneven and porous like all other samples of the find, this bit had in its center a semicircular-shaped hole, and it appeared as if this bit was pressed against it until it broke through the surface." 38.

Some comments on the "remains" went this way:

"Remains of possibly a rocket or jet-propelled object, which fell on Tuesday [July 9th] afternoon at Bjorkan in Njurunda have been sent to Stockholm, the Defense Staff's Air Defense Division, for investigation announced the press officer at Sundsvall airbase, Capt. R. Westlin, in an interview for the Morgon-Tidningen.

"The projectile clearly produced a high temperature and the remains of the same were very hot when found. The slag produced by the projectile was burnt black." 39.

"A strange sight in the heavens was seen in Gavle[Sweden] on Sunday evening just before 8 o'clock. Several persons observed an object in the sky which might have been a rocket-bomb or something similar. It went across over the city in an east to west direction at an altitude which witnesses estimated might be 8,000-10,000 meters, but it was plainly seen against the clear evening sky. The projectile, of whatever kind it may have been, could be made out clearly as an elongated gray body with a bright light in the stern end. It disappeared after several moments[as if] in a smoke cloud." 40.

On July 10th the sky lit up a bluish-green as a point of light the same colors, with a glowing tail a hundred feet long, came out of the southwest. The thing appeared over the Njurunde district the same time persons observed a "ghost rocket" over Medelpad. Witnesses differed on the direction but their descriptions of the long tail were similar.

An account in the Swedish newspaper Svenska Dagbladet was the most detailed of what transpired next.

The "projectile" hit a bathing beach at Bjorkon, Njurunde, with a dull thud:

"The area is secluded, about 3 km. from Bjorkovagen. One of the summer cabins [there] belongs to airline pilot Torvald Linden, who, when the 'meteor' came, had some visiting neighbors around a coffee table outside the cabin.

"The projectile's light darkened the sun's rays. summer guest, Mrs. Soderberg, and she called my attention to it," said Mr. Linden. The projectile gave off a blinding light. It was indeed so bright that the sun's rays happened to dim. The projectile went quite low its highest speed at 50 meters per second. It descended at a 40-degree dive angle and fell into the sand, yet without any immediate report [peal, clap]. At a distance of only 20 meters lay some young girls and bathers, and they saw how the sand spurted up. After some time we found the crater, which however was rather modest in size [couple of decimeters deep and a meter in diameter]. Spread all around was discovered thus a mass left by the mysterious sky-projectile. It mostly looked like porous slag of various colors --from burnet yellow to black. Some small bits were nearly in powered form, and when they were taken in the hands, they began to smart as if from lye. Likewise it smelled with the odor of just this stuff [?].

"The projectile, which had a northeasterly direction, was accompanied by a luminous tail of 40-50 meters.

"The summer guests in Norrvikssand began at once to gather up the pieces in bags, and it turned out in the end to be many kilos of slag of various colors. A part of the collected pieces brings to mind burnt bits of metal. Ten meters from the fall your correspondent found, on searching at Norrvikssand Wednesday, a burnt-brown object with a hollow cylinder. In color and consistency this object was like most of the other objects turned up. The cylinder had a diameter of about 20-30 millimeters. The military authorities later took over the find." 41.

The Svenska Dagbladet reported:

"Tests on the remnants of the projectile were referred on Wednesday to Dr. B. Backlund, at the Cellulsalialageta Investigational Laboratory in Kubikenborg,..."

"At first he gathered a bit of gray-white loose material under the microscope from a piece of paper or film fragment, which appeared to be divided up into squares something like a checkers or chessboard. The paper or film coating was only a quarter-millimeter in surface. That the material in question is not of any celestial origin we can establish at once, said Dr. Backlund."

"It looked most nearly like carbon carbide which was exposed to weathering. It was somewhat more gray in color than other pieces of the find."

"When Dr. Backlund picked at the object a little piece of paper of about a quarter-millimeter in size came off and under a magnifying glass it appeared that the paper was checkered almost like a checkerboard with white squares with black bottoms. The squares were microscopic but very regular and it was all like a kind of screen which is used in electrotyping. Here it must be a question of an object which was not exposed to any exceptionally high temperature." 42.

The porous fragments were rust-colored and appeared to have been subjected to intense heat. The reader may want the account in the original Swedish just for the record:

"...ett rostfargat, poröst litet stycke, vilket bar ett mycket tydligt marke efter att ha suttit intill nagot cylinderliknande foremal. Medan den rostfargade bitens yta var ojamn och poros som alla andra exemplar av fynden hade den har biten i centrum ett halvcirkelformat uttug, och det verkade som om denna bit under stark hetta tryckts mot ett runt, rorliknande foremal och darigenom undgatt att fa ytan dar intill sonderfratt." 43.

As for the supposed "chequered graph paper," the Swedish account states:

"...ett bitet pappersstycke pa nagra kvadrat-millimeters storlek och under en lupp visade det sig att papperet var rutat ungefar som ett schackbrade med vita rutor pa svart botten. Rutorna var mikroskopiska men mycket jamna och det hela liknade ett slags raster, som anvands vid klichering. Har maste det vara fraga om ett foremal som inte utsatts for nagon exceptionellt hog temperatur." 44.

A "rocket bomb" over Vastervik:

"A 'rocket bomb' also has passed over the Vastervik area. A Vastervik family and a Stockholm lady who were on a visit to a farmer in Gladhammar at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday July 10th discovered an object passing over the treetops at a low altitude and disappearing

behind the woods. Two persons saw a blue or green streak. Another saw as well a small object ahead of the streak. No sound was heard. Clear sky and visibility prevailed. The direction was easterly or perhaps northeastly and the path horizontal." 45.

The next day, July 11th, news of the incident was less sensational. According to the Swedish press, the impact site was visited by the following Swedish military personnel: Lt. Colonel Rudberg, Captain C. Ljungdahl, and a Captain R. Westlin. All three officers quickly came to the conclusion that no projectile had crashed on the beach. The material picked up by Mr. Linden was judged to have existed on the beach previous to the supposed fall and no doubt was jetsam. On the other hand, it was admitted there was no way of discounting the possibility that a meteor had fallen in the area. An Army Captain by the name of Aston had been leading an infantry unit on a training exercise in the area and he reported a falling body that matched the account given by Mr. Linden. 46.

July 11th also had its share of sightings. A Mr. Ejnar Andersson of Otterslaten claimed that sometime between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. he sighted a glittering object moving through the air. He estimated that the object was about a meter in length and that it trailed smoke. If Mr. Andersson had not been watching an aircraft at the time he might not have spotted the object. The object appeared next to the aircraft and then flew away to the northeast. .

Something similar was reported at the city of Dalaholm the same day when residents sighted a "winged projectile with a copper-like shine" that trailed fire and which made a growling sound. The thing was supposed to have fallen in a field of rye. 47.

Early on July 11th, at 9:08 in the morning, at a place two miles south of the city of Goteborg, a person sunbathing happened to catch a glimpse of a "long silver object" flying toward the south at a slow speed. The object moved slowly and made no noise that could be heard. 48.

A "green" ball:

"A mysterious fireball was observed between 1-2:00 p.m. on Thursday [July 11th] over Kopingsvik bathing area north of Borgholm. It looked like a light green, brightly shining ball, which moved with great speed in an easterly direction. Behind the 'ball' appeared a spiral-shaped violet streak of light. According to what many observers tell, the luminous phenomenon disappeared suddenly. No trace of it could be found [seen]." 49.

A July 11th dispatch from the Swedish town of Orebro read:

"A mysterious fireball was seen on Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. It had the form of a light green luminous ball trailing reddish smoke as it moved

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
INCOMING TELEGRAM

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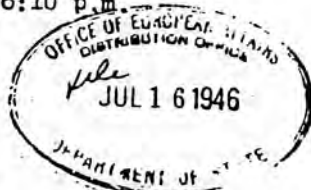
Dated July 11, 1946

Rec'd 6:10 p.m.

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1130, July 11, 6 p.m.

For some weeks there have been numerous reports of strange rocket like missiles being seen in Swedish and Finnish skies. During past few days reports of such objects being seen have greatly increased. Member of Legation saw one Tuesday afternoon. One landed on beach near Stockholm same afternoon without causing any damage and according to press fragments are now being studied by military authorities. Local scientist on first inspection stated it contained organic substance resembling carbide. Defense staff last night issued communique listing various places where missiles had been observed and urging public report all mysterious sound and light phenomena. Press this afternoon announces one such missile fell in Stockholm suburb 2:30 this afternoon. Missile observed by member Legation made no sound and seemed to be falling rapidly to earth when observed. No sound of explosion followed however.

Military Attache is investigating through Swedish channels and has been promised results Swedish observations. Swedes profess ignorance as to origin, character or purpose of missiles but state definitely they are not launched by Swedes. Eyewitness reports state missiles came in from southerly direction proceeding to northwest. Six units Atlantic fleet under Admiral Hewitt arrived Stockholm this morning. If missiles are of Soviet origin as generally believed (some reports say they are launched from Estonia), purpose might be political to intimidate Swedes in connection

with Soviet pressure

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-2-#1130, July 11, 6 p.m., from Stockholm

with Soviet pressure on Sweden being built up in connection with current loan negotiations or to offset supposed increase in our military prestige in Sweden resulting from the naval visit and recent Bikini tests or both. Soviet political pressure on Sweden in connection with Baltic refugees here has, as recently reported to Dept., been considerably stepped up.

RAVNDAL

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in a northeasterly direction. The same time a phenomenon was observed at Kumla that gave the appearance of a large bullet shot toward the earth from a great height." 50.

The Swedish military announced that smoke trails viewed at Ockello and Falun were generated by a pair of J. 26 Mustangs of the Swedish Air Force and were not from any sort of "ghost projectile." Annexed to the foregoing announcement was a statement by the military that a search of rocket crash sites in the vicinity of Stockholm had resulted in finds of slag-like material that compared well with the material picked up near Njurunda (The Sundsnall beach case). 51.

Events finally moved the Swedes to form a "ghost rocket committee" to analyze the flood of civilian and military reports, directing that the following organizations contribute members: Research Institute of National Defense, Air Administration, Defense Staff, the Naval Administration, and the Defense Radio Institute.

The Chief of the Material Department of the Air Administration, Colonel Bengt Jacobson, was selected chairman. He was made responsible to General Nils Soderberg, Sweden's top Air Force officer. Secretary and chief investigator was Eric Malmberg of Sweden's Material Department Equipment Bureau. A special advisor was Henry Kjellson, also of the Equipment Bureau, famous for heading the war time investigation of a German V-2 rocket crash. 52.

On July 11th, a story from Lindkoping stated: "Late in the evening a rocket-like thing was observed by numerous people. At the rear one could see a line to which a copper-like sphere was fastened(?)" 53.

One of the oddest of the July 11th cases came out of the western Halsingland district. There, at the town of Ramsjo, on that Thursday afternoon, a fireball passed low over the tree tops. Witnesses said that the object appeared to be the size of a human head, and when it moved, it left a fiery wake four to five meters long. The fireball sped off on an easterly course. It is possible there was some connection with the sighting at the same time of a fireball that was said to have dropped into a lake in the Ramsjotrakten area. 54.

July 12th

A Norwegian gentleman living in the community of Berg in Annebu witnessed something odd at 2:30 p.m. According to the Norwegian newspaper Tonsberg Blad, the witness heard a noise that sounded like an object falling through the air. Shortly thereafter a big splash occurred in a pond nearby. Blue smoke lingered over the area and convinced the man that what happened had something to do with the ghost rocket mystery. 55.

A Norwegian newspaper printed:

"The Swedish Army informs our correspondent that some of the observations may be explained.

The Aftenposten has been in contact with bomb experts who can tell that the phenomenon has been observed so regularly that meteors can certainly be excluded...however, one cannot be quite sure... there is much to indicate that the objects may be guided missiles that do not contain explosives." 56.

The London Times summarized the murky situation on July 12th, printing that glowing balls trailing smoke were annoying inhabitants along Sweden's east coast and that the Swedish General Staff had taken a formal interest in the matter. The Times now said that no definite meteorite evidence had been found, so a radio-controlled V-bomb theory was being entertained.

An English newspaperman on the continent had more to add. A peculiar object was spotted flying at high speed, an estimated 400 kilometers per hour, over the Rhone Valley in Switzerland according to a Daily Mail correspondent's dispatch wired from Geneva. The station master at the city of Gryon on a mountain railway was watching a Liberator bomber fly over at 15,000 feet when he also saw a "flying bomb." The station master described the thing as like a big star traveling north-east. Despite the clear day no smoke was seen that could be associated with the object. The Daily Mail representative also got a look at the phenomenon. 57.

Meanwhile, back in Sweden, there was more comment about alleged rocket fragments.

The find of seven pounds of slag at the city of Njurunda, on Sundsnall beach, which was guessed to have had some relationship with the "ghost rockets," was scarcely meteoric, explained the Swedish military when questioned by representatives of the Stockholm newspaper Dagens Nyheter. The material was said to have fallen from the sky but it is known, said the military, that meteorite material is usually compact and composed of iron while the Njurunda fragments were more like furnace slag or coke, light in weight and porous, thus the military was entertaining the thought that the suspected material was not from a falling star. The examination of the material was continued. 58.

Another Dagens Nyheter story revealed that on July 12th at 7:00 at the city of Rasunda something odd was seen: "It was very much like a huge soap bubble with drops on its brim. It sailed slowly toward the north-west." 59.

The Dagens Nyheter informed its readers that the Swedish military was showing an interest in the reported courses of the strange objects being seen in the hope it may learn something about the origin of the mystery, meteoric or otherwise. 60.

"CRASH IS DENIED" headlined the Morgon-Tidningen. The story in the July 12th edition read:

"All three investigators, [Rudberg, Ljungdahl & Westlin] quickly came to the conclusion that a projectile never fell onto the bathing beach. The object which airline pilot Linden and others picked up must be old wreckage which was lying there earlier.

"On the other hand there is nothing which speaks for some comet-like object having passed at a very great height. The men studied the terrain and heard many persons who were staying on the beach. A couple of girls, who lay around 20 meters from the presumed crash site, had not even noticed anything. An investigation of the safeguarded object of a crash can be excluded entirely." 61.

"Ghost Ball."

The Morgan-Tidningen tells us:

"Some workers, occupied at a construction site at Hageratenssen, saw at 12 o'clock on Saturday (July 13th) a 'mysterious' ball come travelling at treetop level over the ridge from Malarhojden in a northerly direction. It was round and about as large as a man's head and had a two or three meter tail. It gave out a bright blue-green shine, but no sound was heard." 62.

Also:

"A gang of line road workers a half-mile from Nasvikens station witnessed at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday a flying object at 150 meters altitude, which went forward with a sound like that of a outboard motor run at high speed. The object might have been a couple of meters [in size] and had back-bent wings. It went in a northerly direction." 63.

Elsewhere, an explosion believed to have been a bomb or artillery shell was reported at Bjorklinge, twenty kilometers north of Uppsala, according to a farmer named Carl Nilsson who sent a report to the newspaper Uppsala Nya Tidning. A Mr. Nilson and another person, at 9:30 p.m., were out in the woods in the vicinity of the farm when a dull humming was heard in the air which appeared associated with a projectile passing by at a height of 10 to 20 meters and on a flat trajectory. The projectile came from the southeast and went toward the northwest. About 400 meters from Nilson the first explosion occurred. Three blasts in rapid succession were heard. Smoke covered four to five kilometers. The incident was reported to police and military authorities. 64.

"Fireworks?"

The Morgon-Tidningen revealed that the farmer Carl Nilsson case was due to a rather mundane cause: "The 'projectile' has turned out to be a fireworks article which was sent on its way by a couple of boys." 65.

In Norway the newspaper Stavanger published the claim that a "ghost rocket" appeared over Rogaland at 11:00 p.m., July 13th. A citizen that night saw a luminous object approach out of the southeast at great speed and at a fairly great height. The object was a strong yellow-red color. It gradually disappeared in a northwest direction. The entire time it was under observation the object maintained the same altitude which indicated it could not have been a meteor in the opinion of the observers. Four persons viewed its passage. 66.

The above report is probably the same incident as that published in an English newspaper. In the English version inhabitants of a small Norwegian coastal town south of Oslo spotted a smoking fireball zipping overhead at an altitude of only 400 feet. The London Telegraph reported the appearance of the "Oslo mystery star" and the news that Norway's newspapers were urging future witnesses of strange aerial phenomena to contact authorities immediately and to keep on the lookout for any wreckage. 67.

Unfortunately the following case was not published in a 1946 newspaper which makes it suspect and not good evidence that "flying saucers" were seen prior to 1947.

A Mr. Hans Sorensen, a citizen of Denmark, wrote a letter to the Danish newspaper Sjællands Tidende in the 1970's concerning an aerial phenomenon he witnessed 25 years before:

"In the summer of 1946, I was cycling on the way from Jyderup toward Kalundborg. A couple of kilometers outside Viskinge toward Kalundborg, I suddenly noticed something odd. At first I thought I saw smoke rings from a tractor, so I stopped in a clear spot so as to see better. Then I saw three thingamajigs fitting the descriptions of UFO's. They flew vertically overhead. They sort of tilted in the middle, choppily (this is a guess as to the meaning of the work "hakvis," by analogy with 'stodvis' -- DGW -- translator) not very rapidly. They were like polished mirrors on top, and in profile almost like a flat and deep saucer. The underside was uneven and dull gray.

"That was in July, in calm weather. It was about 2:00 p.m., and the sun was behind me. As I stood there, several people came up, and we concurred that there were no sounds, such as a normal aircraft would make." 68.

The next item is also an "interesting, if true" case published long after 1946.

A British officer, Wing-Commander G. R. Leatherbarrow,

related a strange story about an incident that took place in Turkey right after the war. He was unsure of the day or month:

"...in Istanbul in 1946, I was dancing at Taxim's Night Club, on the roof. People started to point into the sky towards the East. The band stopped playing and everyone watched as four reddish lights, in line abreast crossed the sky very quickly and disappeared in the West. Each light was square. There was a faint trace of Cirrus cloud, so I would put their height at about 50,000 feet. They crossed from horizon to horizon in under a minute, far too fast for any form of aircraft. There was a lot of shouting from the people around, who were clearly frightened, and I was told the next day that the incident had been reported in the Turkish press." 69.

Returning to Scandinavia, on Sunday night, July 16th, a queer light was seen in southern Finland. Dr. V. R. Olander of the Helsingfor Observatory saw the light and suggested that the phenomenon was some kind of meteor. Another report from a different part of the country mentioned the possibility that the light was not a shooting star and the missile theory could not be excluded. 70.

The same day a supposed "spook rocket" was observed in Sweden's Norrland district at 10:00 p.m., passing over the city of Matfors. A factory worker and another person in the area riding on a bicycle spotted the object. The object passed over Matfors and continued on in the direction of the city of Sundsvall. The object had a "tail," and as it moved away it displayed a strong white glow. 71.

Swedish radio broadcasted the following message on July 18th:

"The so-called ghost rocket has again been sighted near Sundsvall where today three workers saw a cylinder-shaped, shiny object moving in the sky at an altitude of 200 to 300 meters, noiselessly and without any smoke exhaust. It was moving at first towards the west, but before disappearing, it had a northwesterly course." 72.

More of the forementioned episode was published by the Swedish press. The printed account stated that the three laborers had viewed the object at the city of Ortviken, but that a short time later a Bank of Sweden officer, Gunnar Falck, had apparently viewed the same phenomenon from the northern part of Sundsvallsbo. Mr. Falck said the object was a silvery cylinder that flew off in a northwest direction. Both the altitude and speed did not appear to be great. No smoke or sound was noticed. 73.

British Intelligence was intrigued with the "Swedish Lake Mjosa case" which was one of the more detailed. The British experts reported:

"...on 18 July 46, at Lake Mjosa, near Feiring, when two missiles were seen to fall into the lake with a splash that rose to a height of several meters. Witnesses who saw the missiles from a distance of 50 yards state: (a) the missiles barely cleared the woods; (b) they were similar to pictures of the German flying bomb; (c) the length was approximately eight feet and wing span 6½ feet; (d) wings were set approximately 3 feet from the nose; (e) a fluttering suggested wings were made of fabric; (f) wings and center section of fuselage were black, nose and tail were silver; (g) there seemed to be a kind of steering apparatus towards the tail; (h) there was no flame; (i) noise resembled a strong whistle or sough; (j) no explosion when they hit the water; (k) the two missiles were flying fairly close together. This report describes a winged object in such detail that it can scarcely be put down to imagination." 74.

Of interest, certainly, is the same case as it was reported in the Norwegian newspaper Aftenposten. The witnesses were two Norwegians that lived on the shore of Lake Mijosa. At noon on July 18th they heard an odd sound. They:

"...saw two rocket-like things that passed over their heads at such high speed, and so low that they threw themselves to the ground. They could see the treetops swaying from the air pressure.

"In the yard, Sigvat Skaug and his son were standing and watching the flying-X from a somewhat greater distance, perhaps 150 feet. Skaug says that they were very much like the V-1 that he had seen in pictures. Ordinary aeroplanes they certainly could not have been. They were cigar-shaped and appeared to be about 7 feet long, with wings extending 3 feet from the nose, almost at the middle. The wings fluttered as if they had been made of material. They did not see any kind of fire. The missiles passed overhead close together, one just a little ahead of the other, on a parabolic course. They then fell simultaneously into the lake, throwing the water several feet up in the air." 75.

Still another source adds further details and makes one wonder how accurate the previous accounts were. A correspondent for the Swedish

newspaper Svenska Dagbladet informs us the incident occurred in the middle of the night. How could the witnesses be so sure about details in the dark? Here is the Dagbladet story:

"The rocket looked like a miniature airplane of about 25 m. in wingspan and came at night between midnight and 12:30 a.m. from the west at a low altitude over the northern section of Fearing, where it was observed by many persons, among others, those at the Hasselbacken Hotel and at [Hotell] Anas. It carried no lights. People were made aware of it by a loud sighing sound and immediately afterward the bomb could be seen coming with furious haste. The speed was so great that passersby stopped and waited till the bomb passed." 76.

Officially, Norway's military was not as excited as the newspapers:

"Reuter's reported from Oslo Thursday that the Norwegian air force has offered an explanation of various reports of mysterious, rocket-like projectiles flying over Scandinavia.

"Air force officials said they have been experimenting with new landing lights on airplanes flying at great heights.

"They said neither pilots of the planes nor ground personnel have noticed anything "mysterious" and suggested the new landing lights were mistaken for a new type projectile.

"Heretofore newspapers in Norway, Sweden, and even Switzerland have reported persons seeing the "ghost" missiles, and speculated they originated from Soviet experimental stations." 77.

A local Swedish newspaper added more to the list of July 18th sightings. A person at the city of Gräbo observed what he called a "flying torpedo" (the Swedish word used was lufttorped) at 11:40 a.m. according to a story in the Goteborg-Posten. It sped at furious speed at a very great height in a northeasterly direction. After 10 - 12 seconds, the object was out of sight. 78.

On Friday, July 19th, came a report from the city of Bolely outside of Pitea. There a farmer by the name of Leonard Danielsson, and his two sons, saw at about 11:30 a.m., a "projectile" in the sky similar to the one reported the day before in the Sundsvall area. The course was northwest. 79.

Kalix:

"At Friday [July 19th] noon a further mysterious projectile was seen in the Kalix river valley. A 10-year-old boy, son of Borje Larsson, Storbacken Frodet, sat and fished in the Kappis marsh, some miles northwest from the lake where another 'rocket' was reported on Friday when he heard a strange sound, whereafter some object fell in the water and threw up a 10-meter high cascade of water. The boy became frightened and ran home and related his adventures for his parents. On Saturday he was heard by the military, which cordoned off both asserted crash sites." 80.

Still another July 19th sighting came from southern Vasterbotten. At 8:00 p.m., both at Vannasby and at Levar, an object was observed speeding from the southeast to the northwest. It appeared as a red ball accompanied by "lightning phenomenon." Witnesses saw a shower of sparks accompany the object. 81.

Norway contributed a report on July 19th which stated that an engineer from Ullern observed at 12:50 p.m. a luminous object that flew over in a southwesterly direction. He watched the object with binoculars as it spewed a thick gray-white smoke trail. The engineer was certain the object was not an aircraft. The rocket-like object passed over Fornebu Airfield while it was in sight. 82.

A local news story mentions what was probably the same phenomenon. At 10:00 o'clock Friday over Furuogrund in Byske two persons viewed something going west at an altitude of 600 meters. A blue-white flash and a loud noise was reported. 83.

A hour and an half later in the Norrbotten area a witness saw an object dive into a small (150 meters wide) lake splashing water 10 to 15 meters into the air. The military showed an interest in the report. 84.

That evening, at 7:30 p.m., in northern Sweden, a silvery streak of light at about 50 meters altitude (?) was visible for 10 seconds. There was an explosion. 85.

Another crash that Friday was noticed by a construction laborer, Knut Linback, and a housemaid by the name of Beda Person. Both were at a house in the village of Kolmjarv when they saw an object a couple of meters in length come into view above the forest treetops and dive into the lake that has the same name as the village. Lindback rode a bicycle down a long road leading to the lake and set out in a row boat to search although the water was muddy. Linback stated that the object caused a splash when it hit the water followed by more splashes shortly thereafter. By Saturday afternoon, the military had a team of experts at the lake to investigate. 86.

Accompanying the above dispatch was a notice that the Swedish military had released an urgent message to the Swedish press about the future publication of place names of rocket sightings. Names of cities were to be stricken and replaced with expressions which would identify just the general area, i.e., words like, "southeastern Norrbotten." 87.

An object was observed at 10:50 a.m. Saturday, July 20th, by a couple of persons at Skaten. The object was described as a glowing oblong ball moving out of the northeast toward the southwest. 88.

The fall at Kalix excited the Swedish press, which announced that a "long range weapon," that did not self destruct after its reconnaissance flight, was on the lake's bottom. It was cautioned, however, that the bottom of the lake was extremely muddy and the search would take a long time.⁸⁹

Sunday, July 21st.

A fireball was spotted the afternoon of July 21st at Halsingborg, Sweden. The fireball was observed in the clouds at 1,000 meters altitude speeding in a northern direction. The sighting was fairly brief and the object was quickly lost from view in the clouds.⁹⁰

Word from Norbotten on July 22nd was:

"The mystery of the many space projectiles stands at last to get its solution. In a lake in Norrland a military crew tried to dredge up one of the things, which on Friday midday fell down into the lake, where holes are now being dug for the projectile. Great expectations are entertained for its recovery in relatively undamaged condition.

"A military crew of ten men was sent to the lake on Saturday and after eyewitnesses guided them out to it, the place was quickly located where the projectile bored itself into the lake bottom. The water depth here is only 75 cm. and the projectile made a hole more than a meter wide, which was very deep. At the beginning an oar was struck down in the hole but did not reach the bottom, whereupon an extra tool was sent for. The projectile clearly had had an unheard-of speed on impact, where from there was witnessed a great amount of mud which was thrown a long way around the falling-place. According to what the Svenska Dagbladet gathered it is hoped that thanks to the mud, which moderated the violence of the fall, the projectile can be found largely intact. It is thought to allow for several days work in the lake before the thing can be delved up. And already there ought not have been such a long delay before it is clarified where it originated." ⁹¹

One of the better reports, in British Intelligence opinion at least, was the one from a Swedish airfield:

"...on 22 July from Gardermoen Airfield. Three airmen, one a sergeant who had seen several flying bombs in England during the war, observed at 1:00 a.m. what they termed 'a flying bomb passing over their airfield at a terrific speed.' The height was difficult to judge but might have been 2,000 - 3,000 feet. All witnesses stated that fire and sparks were issuing from the tail but no noise was heard. They deprecated the suggestion that the object might have been a meteor or other natural phenomenon." ⁹²

Word from Norway on July 23rd announced that the Norway's High Command had ordered the start of an investigation. The High Command, according to the newspaper Aftenposten, had held a conference about the matter, but no information about official actions or opinions had been released.

It was learned that military police at Gardemoen Airfield were conducting a local inquiry into a sighting of an object over that area the day before. 93.

Disappeared in a cloud:

"The latest report comes from a person who just before 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday [July 23rd] saw a silvery-shining torpedo in the air. It went remarkably low, and disappeared little by little in a cloud. Before that it could be plainly discerned all the while. The object looked most nearly like a balloon, said the report. Last week a similar phenomenon was observed three evening in a row in almost the same direction." 94.

An unusual "ball of fire" flashed over Melaren, on July 23rd, which was described as looking like: "... a swan without a head(?)." 95.

A meteor, or similar object, was seen about midnight July 23rd over southern Sweden by several persons. Just before midnight a bright fiery light was visible which exploded in pieces with an intense flash of light. 96.

Meanwhile, during the spring of 1946, an intense inter-service rivalry erupted over control of the United States' long-range rocket program. During a radio dramatization of a future war fought with rockets, Lieutenant General Curtis LeMay, head of the Army Air Force's Research and Development, and General Carl Spaatz, Army Air Force Commander in Chief, boldly asked NBC's radio audience to back their bid to obtain exclusive authority over all guided missiles. A short time later another Army Air Force spokesman even told the press that, as far as the future of warfare was concerned, the U.S. Navy had no significant role; he bluntly stated that seapower as a fighting force was "finished." It would seem that the Air Force was right, for the Bikini atomic tests in 1946, on June 30th and another on July 25th, proved the vulnerability of the massed naval fleets of World War II.

A month later after the last Bikini atomic test on July 25th, Newsweek magazine printed an unusual statement: "This was the Russian reply to Bikini. Such was the conclusion drawn by many from the continued flight of self-propelled missiles over Sweden..." 97. These two sentences introduce the most mysterious crisis of the East-West Cold War--the riddle of the "ghost rockets."

"Round Trip Bomb."

It was reported on July 25th that the Swedish military was anxious for the public's help, requesting that all ghost bomb sightings be sent to the "Air Defense Division, Defense Staff, Stockholm 90."

According to the Morgon-Tidningen the Swedish Defense Staff was speculating that:

"It is possible that the flying bombs which are seen crossing Sweden both with a western direction and in a directly opposite direction, are taking a round trip over the country in order then to return to their place of origin..." Also: "...that they are meteors in every case is a theory which has been rejected without further ado by the defense staff." 98.

The Svenska Dagbladet reported:

"The latest report of the mysterious space projectiles comes from a coastal place in middle Sweden where a flying body was observed on Tuesday evening.

"It was a company of six persons who at 10:00 p.m. saw the mysterious object. One of them, notary E. Nordin of the Swedish business bank, relates that the phenomenon can be described as a lighted body. It passed at some hundred meters high in a direction south to north and shone with a yellow-white light. The thing crossed the heavens completely soundlessly and had about the same speed as an airplane." 99.

At 10:00 p.m., Friday, July 26th, according to the newspaper Social-Demokrat of Slagelse, Denmark, a white object flying at great speed through the air was observed. The sighting was made at the city of Korsor. Although the object was soundless there was some smoke. 100.

The Norwegian military High Command appealed via the news-media for public cooperation in obtaining information about missiles landing in Norway. 101.

If the phenomenon annoying Sweden, Norway, and Denmark was meteoric, then why weren't regions like France experiencing the same sky show? There was talk of sky phenomenon in France, but it was not about anything trespassing in the skies west of the Rhine.

A note from the French press, the newspaper L'Aurore to be exact, on July 27th, stated:

"More than 500 rocket-propelled projectiles are said to have been seen over Sweden since the beginning of July. According to some sources, the projectiles that streak across the Swedish sky look like jet planes, but make less noise than usual aircraft. Others describe them as like 'sea gulls without heads.' On the map,

the projectiles do not show uniform trajectories. They go toward the west as well as the south, which leads to the possibility that they are guided by remote control of some sort. It has been impossible to get hold of any of these 'V-1's'; all of them have fallen into the lakes." 102.

An indication of how "spooked" people were becoming over the "spook bombs" was a story from Sweden's Norrland district. An explosion and fire occurred at 9:00 o'clock on July 27th at a farm there. A woman was out in her yard when suddenly she heard a powerful blast. Immediately thereafter she noticed that the hen house was on fire. The shed had been unused for years, had no live electrical hook-up, and had nothing highly combustible stored there, thus it was believed that the incident had some relationship with the mystery missiles since there had been reports made in the area. 103.

Later an investigation determined that there was electric current in the the hen house wiring and the explosion was due to a short circuit that set off some blasting caps being stored in the structure. 104.

Sweden soon listed up to five hundred sightings of the odd "rockets" in less than a month, but the large number of sightings was still no help in learning what the objects were. Some information indicated that the objects were not following the free-falling path of a meteor nor the ballistic arc of a long-range V-2. Instead, the phenomenon appeared to be low flying objects under some kind of control. Sweden's military chiefs became so fearful that some foreign power was ranging in Swedish targets that they suddenly forbade the publication of the location of ghost rocket sightings as of July 27th. 105.

The following day there appeared a press treatment that relied only on rumor. A dispatch from Sundsvall informed the Swedish public that a rumor was going the rounds that claimed a ghost rocket fell in a lake in the Norrland district. The source of this rumor was attributed to a trustworthy person, however, the rumor was denied by an official spokesman. An information officer explained that a specialist from Stockholm was sent to the site of the alleged fall to make a search. After this search, the specialist found nothing but he still urged further searches be made. It was believed that it was the specialist's visit that encouraged rumors. 106.

Search results:

"The search for a 'space projectile' at the bottom of a Norrland lake, where one fell on Friday noon according to an eyewitness, continues constantly, but so far no trace of the projectile has been found.

"The military crew, which already on Saturday was sent to the lake, has turned its attention now to search through the whole course across the lake -an area of 200x200 meters. Because of the deep mud, 'probe search' methods have been resorted to, that is to say that at every half meter a long probe is driven down into the mud. The maximum depth is two meters.

"A search with ordinary military mine-detection equipment failed, since this equipment is not constructed for as great a depth as occurred here.

"Special officers and scientists from Stockholm, that is, from the defense research institute, who on Saturday travelled by plane to the fall site, returned Sunday evening without having achieved their goal.

"On Monday came the crew which relieved the workers in the search. The work on this will be pursued until either what is sought is found or it can be declared that the hunt is in vain. There is still hope, however, that positive results will be obtained." 107.

Denmark, July 27th.

"In Hong, north from Slagelse, many of the inhabitants saw on Saturday[July 27th] afternoon a shining, silvery object in the shape of a projectile which with great speed crossed the clear blue sky in a direction from southeast to northwest.

"It passed very rapidly, presumably in a run of about ten seconds, and none of the eyewitnesses were in a position to account for the clearness of the surprising sight. The observer's statements, in regard to time and appearance, however, are in close agreement, and there was agreement that it could not be any airplane, likewise neither fire nor smoke appeared in connection with this phenomenon, in contrast to what was the case with the body which was observed over Sweden." 108.

As early as July 28th, the Paris correspondent for the Hearst newspaper chain (attributing his scoop to some "unnamed" but "trustworthy sources"), warned of new "V-type" rockets that were supposed to be in production at Berlin's Kaiser Wilhelm Institute. There was no evidence offered, however, that suggested a relationship with the ghost rockets. 109.

The correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph cabled his office on July 29th that Norwegian authorities had now followed Sweden's lead and were beginning to censor information on the ghost rocket activity still taking place over Norway. He further stated that on the previous evening, a light like a giant flashbulb had lit up the capital city of Oslo with an accompanying loud explosion. The correspondent reported that rumors were rife that the aerial blasts associated with the ghost rockets were the missiles themselves blowing up and disintegrating into fragments so small they escaped detection. For example, military personnel at an air base north of Oslo had noticed something rushing overhead just before the blast over the capital. 110.

From the city of OvrekaliX came this statement:

"The Army reports that a ghost-bomb had entered the lake, Kolmjervsjon. The object was rocket like, about nine feet long, and some painted letters had been seen on its side." 111.

A mysterious "light phenomenon" was observed Monday night, July 29, by some motorists in central Sweden. Two comet-like fireballs racing on a parallel course passed overhead and disappeared behind some trees. 112.

July 31st and another mystery fire.

Swedish authorities launched an investigation of a fire at the Black and White lumber mill near the city of Sundsvall where a million cubic feet of pulpwood went up in flames. Since the cause was mysterious, one theory that was proposed was that the blaze was started by a ghost rocket crash, although nothing was found that would bear out the idea. People did not see anything that might be considered a "rocket," but on the other hand, no one could explain how the wood caught fire with such sudden fury out in the open. It was also suggested that a ghost rocket may have some relationships with another fire at the city of Harjedalen when a barn inexplicably burst into flames. 113.

Mystery object over Greece.

About the end of July, 1946, a greek by the name of Amphistion Moslionos, who lived on the isle of Samos in the Aegean Sea, saw something very odd in the sky about 9:00 p.m. At that time he noticed a teardrop shape glowing a bright orange slowly moving NE to SW. It moved so slowly it took about 15 minutes to cross the heavens. A sound, like the wind blowing thru trees, was heard and was thought to have a connection with the strange object. 114.

August.

At two places in the Norrland district there were observations of a metallic appearing object. It was viewed for several minutes by seven to eight persons because its speed was not particularly great. The object reflected brightly in the afternoon sun and flew at a fairly low height before passing behind a mountain. One estimate put the soundless object six to eight kilometers away from the witnesses.

Furthermore, in central Norrland two persons at 10:30 Thursday night viewed a couple of objects which zoomed toward the seacoast. The object in the lead had a luminous yellow tail and exploded over the water. The second object was cigar-shaped. No more detail was given. 115.

The Svenska Dagbladet had more to say about this August 1st case in central central Norrland:

"The first went higher and exploded over the water. It had a strong bright luminous yellow-white tail. The other space projectile was thought more brightly lighted. It exploded too. Both objects were cigar-shaped." 116.

The very next day, August 2nd, the Stockholm press told its readers how silvery projectiles were spotted speeding just above the forests in the northern section of Sweden. Quoting as its source the newspaper Dagens Nyeter, the Stockholm press stated that at least eight people had witnessed the passage of the objects. Moreover, it was reported that the Dagens Nyeter had listed yet another sighting of two missiles seen coming out of the interior and heading for the coast flying at a very low altitude. Both missiles blew up with a yellow-white flash as they reached the seawaters of the Baltic. 117.

An alleged impact crater in central Sweden was the subject of discussion August 2nd when the hole was suggested to have had something to do with phenomenon that was recently observed. The Air Defense authorities sent specialists to examine the site and up to August 2nd no final word had been received about the case. 118.

However, the next day the crater was less mysterious. The press reported that the alleged crater in central Sweden that some said had some relation to a ghost rocket fall had a natural explanation. Military experts on August 3rd declared that the hole was actually created by the undermining action of subterranean water. 119.

In another case an actual object was picked up in Denmark. A farmer in the area of Sonderborg believed he had found one of the famous spook bombs in his fields. He was so happy he hung it on the wall in his living room next to the family photographs. 120.

He had dug up the object which had bored 25 to 30 centimeters into the earth. The object recovered was like an oil can of about 10 centimeters in length. On one end there was attached a copper wire about 50 meters long. The canister itself weighed approximately one kilogram. The farmer did not dare to inspect his find too closely since he was afraid it might contain a high explosive. 121.

A local constable was summoned:

"The constable ventured no investigation of the find other than to notify the military authorities. Afterwards it was reported to the defense staff's air defense division that the object was a detached Swedish airplane antenna." 122.

August 3rd a shiny object leaving a vaporous trail flashed over central Norrland. Likewise a red object with a faint tail flashed over southern Sweden the next night on August 4th. 123.

The Chicago Daily Tribune learned August 4th that British and American Intelligence services believed the Russians had reopened the Peenemunde facilities in spite of Soviet assertions that the Baltic test base was still in ruins. Also, it was speculated that the Russians were probably rushing work on improving the German V-2 to counter the advantage the United States possessed as the world's sole nuclear power. 124.

At Skane, Sweden, on August 5th, a strange object was observed at 11:00 p.m. The object:

"...was circular and glittered in the sun like silver. It moved with high speed, but no sound was heard. Its position was somewhere midway between the zenith and the horizon, the direction of flight being towards the southwest." 125.

Was the forementioned a balloon, or a "flying saucer?"

A person in southern Sweden Monday night, August 5th, testified that he saw a fireball with a short tail flying from south to north at an altitude he estimated to be 400 meters and on a perfectly horizontal course. The person observing the object believed that it was not a meteor. 126.

Later that night at 9:30 p.m. three Swedes in the same part of the country witnessed a high speed fireball with a short tail. 127.

Tuesday night another ball of fire flashed over central Sweden. It was seen by a Norwegian dentist on vacation. To the dentist the thing appeared to be "spool-shaped." There was a lack of noise but black smoke was noticed near the object. 128.

The Svenska Dagbladet reported on August 5th:

"Reports from Sweden claim that the Russians are in fact carrying on experiments with V-2's at Peenemunde in northern Pommerania, asserts a German rocket expert to the New York Herald-Tribune's correspondent in Frankfurt an Main.

"The man who spoke to the American newspaper, who worked at Peenemunde and at other experimental stations during the war, says that there have been unconfirmed reports from the Russian zone about rockets factories and laboratories at Nordhausen, Bleicherode, Sonderhausen and Saalfeld being again in action. In Nordhausen was located an extensive underground factory for V-2 bombs during the war, and if reports from Stockholm are true, it indicates that the Russians have set in motion the famous rocket base at Peenemunde. This place was bombed

many times by the British, but when the Tribune correspondent's informant evacuated during the last weeks of the war the equipment was for the most part undamaged...." 129.

The Svenska Dagbladet report on the 6th that a "square" projectile was seen:

"Over the west coast at midday Tuesday a space projectile was sighted, which at ordinary airplane height went directly toward the north. According to the report many persons observed the thing, which happened to be square and had a red color on the underside. The projectile had no wings and no sound was heard when it passed. The speed was reported to be the same as a passenger plane ordinarily makes." 130.

The Dagbladet also informed its readers about a sighting by a member of the defense staff:

"...Lieutenant Lennart Neckman of the defense staff's air defense division himself sighted a phenomenon, which without the slightest doubt was a rocket projectile. It went at a height which was estimated at 500-1,000 meters and with a horizontal course. The phenomenon, which was observed just before midnight till six minutes after, was made out as a fireball with a bright luminous flame.

"Major Niles Ahlgren, who is chief of the air division, thinks that the majority of the projectiles pass over the country from the south and strike down in the Eastern Sea on Bottnisk Bay, if they are not directed to return to their starting-place. Since of course those who carry out the experiments will not give any hints concerning the fall sites, they are secret. Now, however, it is possible, among other things, with the help of radar to follow the course of the projectile from the start. No damage from a fall has yet occurred." 131.

The General went on to say that many reports were explainable. Something odd was sighted and erroneously interpreted as a mysterious rocket. A tornado over a lake, an aircraft in the twilight, a flare, etc. were examples.

Supposed falls of rockets have proven to have natural explanations, the General continued. He suggested that the public was a victim of a rocket psychosis. He said as yet there had not been any discovery of a fragment that could be attributed to a rocket.

As for the finds of slag-like lumps at several locations, according to General Ahlgren, the material proved to be ordinary slag. The material was not believed to be from meteor falls although the meteor theory had not been completely rejected. Many reports of objects in the air were probably meteors, except in a few cases. Some puzzling reports tell of a low altitude so the object in question could not have been of a celestial origin.

Finally, General Ahlgren revealed that a photo had been taken which showed a "fire phenomenon" that apparently was a meteor, but an examination of the picture was as yet incomplete. 132.

Lucius Farish and Jerome Clark, two excellent researchers of the UFO problem, came across a reproduction of a picture of an alleged ghost rocket, a photo taken by a gentleman named Erik Reuterswaerd. The picture, printed in the London Daily Telegraph, shows what appears to be a glowing, elongated, tear-drop shape. The negative, according to the Daily Telegraph, was supposed to have been analyzed by the Swedish General Staff, which determined by special scientific methods that the "...projectile (was) ... in the midst of the flame track, instead of being in front of it. 133.

News from the "crash site at Overkalix on August 6th was that the projectile location work had slacked off and that half the search team had been released from duty so they could return home. Authorities felt that combing the lake bottom may not produce positive results and draining the water would have to be done. 134.

One of those baffling "low altitude" cases made the report list the very next day (August 7th). While driving in central Sweden a motorist heard a loud whistling sound and at the same instant sighted an object which flew by at a great velocity, and at a height of 2 - 3 meteors above the ground. It passed the auto ten meters away and continued on through the woods. A passenger in the auto was also a witness to the phenomenon. 135.

The Swedish press commented:

"From Norrland has come further reports of projectiles plainly seen. One was seen at sunset--a spool-shaped form, tapered, that moved with fairly great speed in a northerly direction. Viewed from the rear, it looked like a strong light." 136.

England's Manchester Guardian commented that day on Swedish Lt. Lennart Neckman's report of a clear yellow flame passing low and slow over the Swedish countryside:

"This first observation made by a trained expert dispels any remaining doubts the phenomenon really is some sort of bomb or rocket and not just a meteor." 137.

The Dagens Nyheter's contribution for August 8th had to do with a phenomenon over Sweden's island of Gottland. A teacher by the name of John Perrson related to press the fact that he had observed something moving 1,500 feet in the air and speeding at 800 kilometers per hour. The nose of object gave off a faint bluish glow. 138.

A round, luminous ball reminiscent of a light bulb, was viewed by several people in northern Sweden. One witness was certain the thing gave off smoke while the other failed



FOUR ROCKETS OVER GREECE ON POLLING DAY

PREMIER'S CHARGE

BY A DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
M. Tsaldaris, the Greek Prime Minister, said in London yesterday that a number of rockets were seen over Macedonia and Thessalonika on the night of Sept. 1. This was the day of the plebiscite on the return of King George of Hellenes.
The rocket passing over Thessalonika, he said, was at a height of 700ft and fell into the sea. I asked

MYSTERY "ROCKET" OVER SWEDEN.—A remarkable photograph, exclusive to THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, of one of the projectiles which have been causing acute speculation during recent weeks. In the large picture the missile is indicated by an arrow, and an enlarged view of it is inset, left.

The snapshot was secured by chance by an amateur, Erik Reuterswärd, in the islands just outside Stockholm. He had photographed the view, and when he developed the negative he saw across it a streak of light which led him to suspect it was one of the "ghost rockets." He reported the matter to the Swedish General Staff, who took possession of the negative, which has now come into the hands of THE DAILY TELEGRAPH.

Super-sensitive processing, which cannot be reproduced in a newspaper, has revealed both to the Swedish General Staff and other Allied experts the presence of the projectile in the midst of the flame track instead of being in front of it. This supports the theory, mentioned in THE DAILY TELEGRAPH a week ago, that a new method of propulsion is being used in these weapons.

to discern any vapor. An estimate of a mere 200 meters was given by one of those watching. After being visible for a short-time, the ball vanished abruptly. It was assumed that the object turned a dark side toward the observers. 139.

Thursday morning at a site in central Sweden, a great store of slag and coal-like substance was discovered and brought to the attention of authorities. How the material came to be at the place was not immediately known and it was suggested that the material fell from the sky.

An area chemical station was requested to examine some samples. It seemed obvious that the material had been subjected to high temperatures 140.

The Morgon-Tidningen reported:

"A strange phenomenon was witnessed by a man in west Sweden on Thursday August 8th evening. At 10 p.m. he came cycling on a road when just ahead of him at about 8 meters distance and at low height he saw an egg-shaped thing of the size of a fist and with a yellowish shine, which was so bright it lighted up the surroundings so that the cyclist could see the electric wires on the roadside. The object, which went lower than the wires, brushed by him so closely that he was nearly struck, continued over the road and fell 15 to 20 meters onward in an oat field. During the object's passage a hissing sound was heard.

"The mysterious thing which came from the east had an unheard-of speed. The cyclist could very clearly follow the object's course. He stopped, made a mark on the electric pole which was closet to the point of impact, and on Friday morning made a report of the occurrence to the police, who at Friday noon were out to the place and searched for the object, without finding any trace of it. Because the oats grew high and in certain places had fallen over from the rain, of course a great difficulty was presented in finding such a small object as the cyclist described especially if it buried itself in the ground. Investigations continue." 141.

The Dagens Nyheter had a bunch of the odd "meteor" stories to tell about August 9th:

"A yellow fireball was seen travelling eastward at a height of approximately 1,500 feet (no locale given).

"North Sweden: Another fireball of the same type, also travelling eastward.

"Stockholm: Yet another of those yellow fireballs, this time seen twice during the day. On the first occasion the object was seen only as an intense light." 142.

The next day the same newspaper had more about happenings on August 9th:

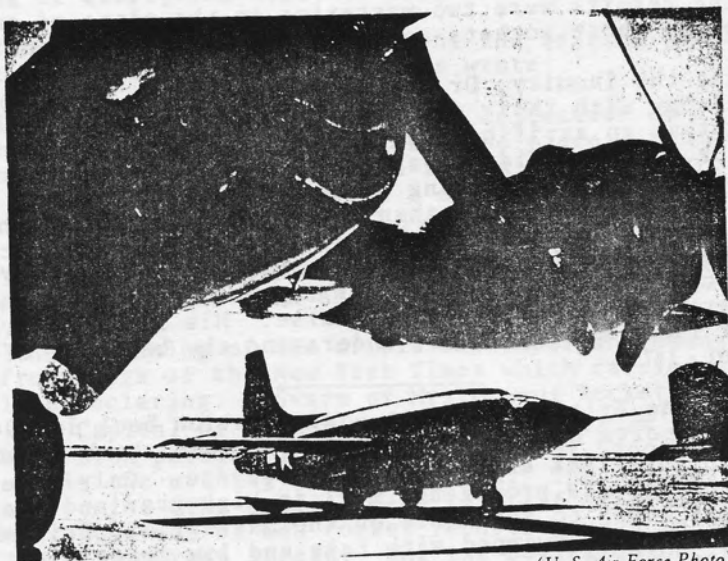
"On the 9th a rocket-like object was seen somewhere in Central Sweden that produced a whistling sound as it crossed the sky at high speed. The object had a triangular nose and its color was almost black. There were no appendages and no light was seen.

"Late that night a fireball fell to earth in Stockholm, and a little later another passed over the city in a westerly direction." 143.

Meanwhile, Major General Aurand, General Eisenhower's expert on rockets, called a news conference in Washington to put to rest any lingering rumors of sharp differences of opinion within the War Department over research and development concerning America's guided missile program. Evidently the news conference was to shore up public morale at home and to restore any lost confidence in American technical superiority abroad. General Aurand claimed that jurisdictional disputes between the different services had been taken too seriously by everyone concerned and that a hearing would be held soon to iron out any minor disagreements that still existed and to lay down some needed formal guidelines. Apparently with the "mysterious demonstrations" over the Baltic regions in mind, Army Air Force General Curtis Le May then replaced General Aurand at the microphone and boasted to the news reporters that Uncle Sam would soon produce an "air rocket" that would be capable of zooming to 100,000 feet and would be equipped with an "anti-meteor gun." It was strange talk for a general who was a long way from having a reliable jet fighter of much more modest capabilities. The press then asked General Aurand if American and British research was being coordinated concerning missiles; the question apparently touched a sensitive area, for he replied curtly, "I cannot answer you that." 144.

News from Paris on August 11th told of still more unusual occurrences in Europe's atmosphere. France's Puy du Dome Observatory issued a statement saying that a cloud of unnatural composition had been lingering over the French Capital at 20,000 feet for three weeks. Airplanes with special instruments had flown through the cloud up to twenty times in an effort to learn more about it. A rumor circulated connection with American atomic tests at Bikini. 145. There was another guess that fortunately did not gain public attention. Experts at the time speculated that the spread of radioactive clouds might be as effective as a bomb, therefore, who was to say that the ghost rockets were not Russian radioactive cloud-spewing weapons, since the Soviets did not yet have the knowledge to build an explosive device.

The Chicago Tribune's Lloyd Norman wrote from Stockholm in August that "80 rockets" had crashed in both Sweden and Norway (obviously he was counting every rumor making the rounds). Norman marveled that the Soviets would risk the loss of an advanced weapon. Quoting both General Aurand and



THE XS-1. GENERAL LE MAY'S AIR ROCKET?

(U. S. Air Force Photo)

Curtis Le May, Norman stated that American Army Ordnance tests of captured German V-2's had not produced any promise of a long range weapon as yet. Norman also claimed to have received assurances from a "highly reliable source" that the Russians were ahead of the U.S. in missile research. 146.

Hints that the Soviets were making strides in rocket research raised a lot of eyebrows in Western Capitals. Dr. R. V. Jones, an important figure in the investigation of the World War II V-weapon riddle, was of course attracted to the latest rocket controversy. Aside from probably being greatly curious about the phantom missiles, Dr. Jones as a British Director of Intelligence, was asked by his government to look into the ghost rocket mystery. He was again faced with the question concerning the existence of an enemy weapon. One would think the problem this time would be easy to solve. But no, the results were two mysteries in the place of one. What were the ghost rockets and what was Dr. Jones thinking?

During the inquiry, Dr. Jones' subordinates suddenly became unhappy with their director. The evidence strongly indicated that an artificial device of some sort was being seen but Dr. Jones would not agree. He based his skepticism on the fact that no convincing wreckage had been found. In light of the fact that more than five hundred sightings had been catalogued, he reasoned that at least one of the rockets should have crashed by then due to mechanical failure. Yet Dr. Jones chose to ignore the radar reports and sightings of the mystery missiles changing course. His staff favored the latter facts and could not understand the behavior of their chief. 147.

During the British V-weapon investigation back in 1943, evaluating reports had been a simple task when the V-weapons were not to any great extent public knowledge. Only later, when Germany put its propaganda mill in high gear and the Allied press began to speculate on the matter, did British Intelligence become swamped with fake and low-grade sightings. Now, in 1946, the Swedes and Norwegians had created a monster by making official public appeals for anyone and everyone to contact the authorities when they thought they saw something. With the resulting deluge of letters, phone calls, and crank visitors, it became difficult to read all the reports, let alone follow them up.

Newsman Leonard Lyons was quoted in the Washington Post:

"A muddy lake in Sweden now is being dredged in a hunt for traces of the mystery bomb projectiles. Ten credible witnesses, including an employee of the American Legation, vow that they saw it in flight." 148.

Swedish newspapers had been carrying ghost rocket reports almost daily from the first of July until August 11th. On

August 11th, a news dispatch from Stockholm sent by a reporter for the Associated Press summed up the situation as of that morning. The dispatch stated that the rocket phenomenon had reached a peak between July 9th and July 12th when sightings had numbered one hundred a day. Since July 12th the sky phenomenon had settled down to appearing at a much lower, though daily, rate. The Swedish public had so far taken the alarming barrage with "surprising calm," observed the Associated Press man in Stockholm. He suggested the calm was probably due to the lack of damage the unexplained flying objects had caused up to then, and the fact that Swedish scientists had only found the "presence of coke and other common materials" at the sites of the many mysterious explosions. However, the complacency of the Swedes underwent a severe test beginning the evening of the 11th and started to reach a crisis point in the days following. Stockholm itself came under fire, the military was placed on alert, and worst of all, some lives were lost. 149.

The Swedish General Staff sent the British samples of ghost rocket fragments. Dr. Jones wrote:

"They were a miscellaneous collection of irregular lumps of material. The piece I remember best was perhaps three inches across, grey, porous and shiny and with a density not much more than that of water." 150.

One piece tested showed 98 percent carbon with 2 percent trace elements like iron and manganese.

The beginning of the crisis was important enough to make the front page of the New York Times which carried a small headline declaring: "Swarm of Mysterious Rockets is Seen Over the Capital of Sweden." A large number of "missiles" had been seen passing low over the city of Stockholm at ten o'clock in the evening of August 11th. The passage caused a minor panic. The Swedish General Staff expressed great alarm as hundreds of new rocket reports poured in and rumors of a Russian threat spread. Why the Soviet Union, with the greatest land mass of any nation in the world, chose to test rockets over Sweden and the waters of the Baltic continued to amaze many in Stockholm. The Stockholm daily Tidningen carried a grim editorial titled, "Ghost Rockets and the Future War," in an attempt to explore any military eventualities. The Swedish military told the public that army units were busy probing a lake bottom in northern Sweden hoping to find the remains of a ghost rocket that had plunged into the waters, apparently crashing. An additional mystery turned up when a newly constructed barn, strongly built, fell apart with a sudden crash just prior to a ghost rocket passing overhead. Experts rushed to the scene, evidently to check if the mystery missile had collapsed the barn with a sonic boom, an as yet little understood phenomenon in the days before airplanes

exceeded the speed of sound.*151.

The American magazine, Time, noted the Swedish excitement by commenting: "...a picture released by the (Swedish) Army last week finally convinced all the papers (except the Communists) that the rockets were real, and that foreign power (Russia) was using Sweden as a testing ground. 152. Blustered Stockholm's Social Democratic Morgontidningen: "Intrusiveness must not be allowed to continue." 153. The aforementioned photo showed only a short streak of light, but it did prove the objects were not imaginary.

The Communist Ny Dag and the Liberal Expressen, both Stockholm newspapers, remained the only holdouts among the Swedish press in condemning the Soviet Union. The New York Herald Tribune commented:

"The reaction of the Communist paper is particularly interesting. Hinting that the photograph was faked, the Ny Dag said there was nothing to prove the rockets were not American, and added in an attempt to humor that "in a few weeks their foremost long-distance bombing expert, General Doolittle, will visit Sweden on an urgent errand." 154.

The panic of August 11th:

"The mysterious rocket firings over Sweden resumed on Sunday even when a great number of persons---certainly the most who have sighted 'ghost bomb phenomena' at the same time---turned in observation reports from some hundred places in central and eastern Sweden.

"By all signs it is judged that the public is beginning to take the 'sky phenomenon' seriously and is disturbed that they will fall to cause death and destruction. The defense staff's telephone was besieged between 9:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. and reports were all alike in matters of time, appearance of the object and its course. Observations were made at two times: 8:46 p.m. and 9:40 p.m. The rocket bombs went in a direction from south to north and gave off a bright blue-white magnesium-like light. The height was stated at a couple of hundred meters.

"Some of the reporters stated that the bombs 'detached' something which looked like a small silver-glistening balls or flakes which immediately fell, and from other places it is reported that a very faint whistling sound was heard."

*A Belgium UFO organization, the Groupement Etude Sciences Avant-Garde, asserts that a rocket-like object rammed a two-story house in the town of Boden, Sweden, on the night of August 12th, setting the residence on fire. The area was quickly cordoned off by the military. No other information on the case is available.

"Any possibility that it could arise from ordinary fireworks does not present itself. Observations are made at about the same time at places far from one another, and also it must have arisen from a particularly fast-moving object, which was observed everywhere, according to the above descriptions.

"Lieutenant Neckman of the defense staff's air defense division occupied himself all Sunday evening with a comparison of the hundred or so reports. From a military point of view the firings are judged 'serious'." 155.

The Dagbladet reported:

"Near a city a projectile dropped to the ground after a powerful explosion. The flight altitude was in general low.

"Over a city just before 9:00 p.m. many persons saw a fireball. Some of the observers saw a luminous tail, while others thought they saw a dark object following the fireball. It flashed and seemed to go out when it came over the city's harbor heading out to sea.

"Over another city in central Sweden and its surroundings many fireballs, of which two came together and the third 25 minutes later. They looked like cylinders. The tail, which appeared after the object, was said in most cases to have had a blue-white color, but in a couple of cases was said to be colored red or yellow." 156.

Also, at 9:00 p.m.:

"About 8:45 p.m. two engineers made an observation of a space object over a city. They described the object as torpedo-shaped with a wide nose. It was magnesium-gleaming and had a fire-spurting tail.

"A lieutenant in the Air Force, with whom the Svenska Dagbladet was in contact, sighted a projectile at 8:46 p.m. for 1.5 seconds and immediately afterward made a drawing from memory of it. He described it as an elongated, drop-shaped projectile, green in the front part and white on the sides. Its direction was northwesterly. The angle of descent was 30 to 40 degrees and the course truly parabolic. Because of darkness it was difficult to judge the distance and speed, but if it was out a great distance the lieutenant estimated the object's length at about 20 meters." 157.

Furthermore:

"A couple of crab fishermen in a country community in southwestern Sweden on Sunday (August 11th) observed a rocket projectile sweep by in a direction from north to south. The projectile was clearly seen and both the observers state that it had an oblong shape and went at a low altitude. From the stern could be plainly seen a powerful flame strike out. The projectile disappeared in a short time over the horizon.

"A company which was out on a sea trip in a west coast fjord discovered on Sunday evening an object like a bright blue-white glowing body travelling through the air. It reminded the witnesses of a fireball and it rotated with great speed. It spread sparks and plunged hissing into the water not far from the witnesses' boat. After a moment came two additional projectiles which had the same direction as the first and also landed in the sea." 158.

A very large, rocket-like object was observed at 9:00 p.m. Sunday night (August 11th) over central Sweden. Eyewitnesses mentioned a "flying fuselage" moving at great speed and lighting the heavens with a white glow. Near a city there the object came down after a powerful explosion. People were now beginning to take the "sky phenomenon" seriously and alarm was spreading that there might be danger to life and property.

In one area at that time a farmer claimed that a "rocket" came down in a field of wheat. The object had a tail when seen in flight but none as it dived into the field. Unfortunately, it was a dark night at the time and the farmer could not find anything.

Shortly before 9:00 p.m. a fireball appeared over Stockholm and some claimed that a dark body accompanied the fireball. It approached over Stockholm's harbor and went toward the sea-coast.

Ten minutes before a number of persons sighted an object heading directly toward a high mountain. A spectator thought that the object could have only missed the mountain by taking a curved path. He made no mention of seeing an impact. At the same time, others said they had seen a gray-green ball with a luminous tail. Perhaps it was the same object.

In central Sweden several other fireballs were observed at 9:00 p.m., August 11th. A pair passed over together followed by a third about 25 minutes later. Witnesses said they detected colors of blue-white, red, and yellow.¹⁵⁹

At a rest home in central Sweden shortly before 9:00 p.m., a fireball was sighted that exploded in four fiery fragments. The fragments fell down toward a mountain and a search was made to recover any remains.

A couple of engineers around 9:45 p.m. sighted an object over Stockholm. They said the object was torpedo-shaped and had a fire-spurting tail.¹⁶⁰

Four Swedes in a central Swedish city observed on Sunday night an object they felt was in plain view. The witnesses declared they could make out a rocket with a large body and a "wire-like tail" (wireliknande svans) from which two black spheres emerged (?). According to information provided by the witnesses, it was assumed that some sort of material fell from the object and they were eager to start a search.¹⁶¹

Several reports of so-called ghost rockets were made on Sunday, August 11th, at 8:50 p.m., when in the southern Norrland district a tube-like thing was spotted. Giving off a strong light resembling fireworks, the thing was clearly visible for

an extended period. A short time afterward (about 10 minutes) at an airport in the same area a powerfully lit object sped overhead heading in the direction of the seacoast.

An engineer saw a similar light over a lake in central Sweden at the same time. He told the press he had witnessed another phenomenon of like characteristics at 11:00 p.m. on Friday. 162.

Sky phenomenon over Sweden was intense on Sunday and before the day was over another sighting occurred at twilight. Two women were bike riding when they heard a faint humming sound and at the same instant noticed a glow in the sky as bright as magnesium. The light went from the southeast toward the northwest at a fairly low height at a distance of a couple of kilometers from the witnesses. No location was given. 163.

During the flood of sightings on the night of the 11th, another Swedish military officer reported seeing one of the strange missiles. He said it looked to be about 65 feet long and had the profile of a cigar. Also, he claimed that the "rocket" had white sides and a green foremost projecting part. The flying cigar-shaped object was moving low and very fast. 164.

"Rocket" sightings hit a peak August 11th with 200 to 300 observations.

Some people proposed that Russia was attempting to use the "phantom bombs" for psychological reasons, for it was widely known that the Soviets were negotiating a large loan from Sweden. Could it be the Russians hoped to get better terms by intimidation?

The Stockholm Aftonbladet expressed skepticism, stating that: "...it (was) difficult to suspect Moscow of such a mad thing." 165. The newspaper added that such a: "...campaign would have quite the opposite effect." 166.

The Stockholm Aftontidningen agreed, recalling that: "...Sweden entered upon trade negotiations long before the rockets were seen." 167. The Aftontidningen bristled and declared that the Swedish people: "...must realize that neutrality must be an armed one." 168.

The New York Times received another dispatch August 12th, datelined Stockholm, that described the tension in the Swedish Capital as "near the boiling point." The Swedish General Staff requested new radar equipment from Britain and it was officially announced that Lt. General James Doolittle would be visiting Sweden to give advice to their rocket-beleaguered country. 169.

One well-qualified observer, a gentleman who was both an astronomer and a meteorologist, gave a rather complete eyewitness account of a ghost rocket which was printed by the New York Times in its August 11th edition.

The story in the Times read:

"I was studying some clouds through a telescope when suddenly I observed a luminous point on the horizon.

"I first believed it to be an airplane, he said, but soon I noticed it was traveling much too fast for that, and within ten seconds, I got a full view of the projectile. I managed to get a clear view of the bomb's body and estimate that it was at least 90 feet long. The body was torpedo-shaped and shining like metal. No sound could be heard, although the bomb was only two kilometers away. At the explosion, a terrific light flashed up that for a moment completely blinded me. No fire, smoke, or sparks were noticeable." 170.

According to another version in the Christian Science Monitor, the scientist who had witnessed this ghost rocket also said the mystery missile had: "...a tapered tail that spewed glowing blue and green smoke and a series of fire balls..." 171.

As of August 12th Swedish military authorities began a new intensive investigation under tight security because the missiles were viewed "most seriously." They stated that the shower of rockets the previous evening had covered the whole of central and southern Sweden. One rocket had zoomed very low over Stockholm and reportedly blew up in the air over the city's northern suburbs. The Aftontidningen's editor stated that the missile, which had just missed Stockholm, had made a straight shot across the sky only six hundred feet up and was propelled by a blindingly bright exhaust which he described as a "sparkling tail of blue fire." 172.

Although the Swedes kept a lid on any official opinions, on the afternoon of the 12th, the Swedish Army was reported to be inspecting three different sites of suspected "rocket crashes," and rumors fixed Estonia as the probable missile launching base. 173.

Like a V-2?:

"Just like a V-2, said Londoner George Harrison, when he, together with his Swedish friend, correspondent Gunnar Jonasson, at 9 o'clock on Monday (August 12th) evening observed over Soder a ghost bomb of the same type as that which on Sunday evening passed over Stockholm in a northerly direction. The bomb also came out of the south, stated Jonasson. It was Harrison who first noticed it and called his friend's

attention to the projectile's course. The rocket bomb presented a bright magnesium like light and an ordinary spool's shape. It was seen about 10 seconds.

"Mr. Harrison did service in England during the war years and thus on innumerable occasions saw both V-1 and V-2 bombs. He was sure of this matter, said Mr. Jonasson---We had not gone out to 'hunt for ghost bombs,' nor stood and watched the sky, either, when Harrison called our attention to it. It cannot be a question of any kind of suggestion especially since we had talked earlier in the day in only the briefest terms about Sunday's rocket firings." 174.

Another eyewitness, one that saw a mystery missile explode in the air, claimed that hard, black material that resembled coal-clinkers had rained down. Some experts speculated that the dark fragments were residue of some sort of propellant, or warhead powder. Other details made public in the press at this time disclosed that the rockets had been seen flying at altitudes between six hundred to twelve thousand feet and at estimated velocities of up to six hundred miles per hour. 175.

At a location in central Sweden a person sighted a "torpedo-like" object on Monday, August 12th. Of a strong white appearance, the object passed over at a great height in a southwest direction. A strong luminous glow came from the object's nose. After being in view a short time, it dissolved or disappeared. The shape, as described by the eyewitness, was that of a large cigar with a broad forward part and a narrow rear portion. 176.

The forementioned sightings seemed to have been ordinary meteors, as well as the next report.

Two "torpedo-like" objects of a bright white glow were observed on the 12th in central Sweden and at a place in the southern Norrland district. Both objects had a similar course. Oddly enough, the day before there had been a similar observation at the same time and place. 177.

Lookout asked:

"The Swedes notified their legation at Helsinki [Finland] to be on the sharpest lookout and to notify Finnish authorities immediately if the bombs appeared again." 178.

The Svenska Dagbladet reported:

"A rocket projectile fell at 8:15 p.m. in the area near a south Sweden seaport. It went so low that it grazed the housetops and was observed by many persons.

"Two eyewitnesses who saw when the projectile fell assert firmly that it struck the ground on an islet some 100 meters from the mainland. The men went out in a motorboat, but since the islet is rather large and overgrown with hard-to-pass-through vegetative thickets, the men

soon were forced to give up the search. They went to continue searching on Wednesday morning, however, since they said they were certain that they saw the projectile strike the ground on the islet. The projectile, which came out of the south, described a very flat course about 50 meters from the ground. The body was cigar-shaped and one or two meters long and radiated a bright light-red light. Behind was a many meter long smoke trail." 179.

August 13th

The Svenska Dagbladet commented:

"The multitude of new reports of sightings of space projectiles, which in recent days has come in to the defense staff's air defense division, are now held for comparison. No find has been made from the crash sites. During Tuesday[August 13th] the diminishment in the stream of reports was considerable.

"That one of the fireballs observed 8:50 p.m. Sunday evening was a meteor and not a 'ghost bomb' is maintained by a prominent scientist in a conversation with the Svenska Dagbladet. This person made the sighting from a motorboat on Furusund Bay.

"The theory that Monday's[August 12th] air accident in Smaland was caused by a collision with a space projectile cannot be positively confirmed. In particular no reports of space projectiles at the time and place of the accident have yet been received as of late Tuesday evening by authorities in the area." 180.

The London Daily Telegraph carried an account on the 13th which mentioned that ghost rocket sightings had been made at Mariehamn, a city located on the Aaland Island which guard the entrance of the Gulf of Bothnia. The account claimed that the Mariehamn sightings were identical to the Swedish reports. 181.

While many of the rockets came from the direction of Russian-occupied Peenemunde to the south, eyewitnesses also claimed they had seen mystery missiles coming out of the north. 182.

The behavior of the phantom bombs also puzzled the Swedes, who felt that the observed antics of the rockets did not match that expected of the design capabilities of the German V-1 or V-2, so some people nicknamed the ghost rockets "V-4s." 183. Newsweek magazine reported: "Swedes...claimed to have seen the missiles backtrack, loop, barrel-roll, dive, and climb... (which) indicated they were radio-controlled." 184.

From different places in western Sweden on Monday night "light phenomenon" was observed. Common to all was a rain of sparks from a luminous body. The objects were yellow-white ball shapes with tapering tails. Generally the light phenomenon moved in a north-south direction. 185. From the city of Goteborg came this note: "At 9:00 p.m. a fish-like thing was seen that fell from the sky(?)" 186.

In Denmark, Briar-Jensen, a night watchman at Struer saw a "spook rocket" explode. About four o'clock in the

morning he caught sight of a fiery object coming out of the northeast. Suddenly there was an explosion that lit up the whole sky. He heard the detonation the same instant he saw the light phenomenon. 187.

A Swedish Air Force lieutenant said he sighted an object 65 feet long moving at exceptionally low altitude with terrific speed. The thing, he said, was: "...shaped like a cigar with a green foremost projecting part and white sides." 188.

The United Press compiled a short dispatch for an August 13th dateline which quoted the Swedish defense staff's concern over the "ghost-bomb psychosis" that had seized the nation, and its dismay over the uselessness of the military's preliminary investigations. The Swedish newspaper, Dagens Nyheter, was also quoted by the United Press when that paper reported one of the better rocket sightings of August 12th. According to the Dagens Nyheter, a torpedo-shaped object with what appeared to be dazzling headlight, was spotted high in the sky moving soundlessly at tremendous velocity. 189.

On the other side of the world, a Soviet scientist who had been observing the American atomic tests at Bikini, told the Western press that his country would explode its own nuclear bomb in the near future, a claim that must have worried those in the Pentagon following the ghost rocket story. 190.

Swedish troops were now mobilized to make exacting ground sweeps over central regions of the country, to look for any sort of ghost rocket wreckage that would be conclusive evidence, while Sweden's Foreign Office prepared a strong note of protest for a "certain neighboring country." 191.

The Washington Post reported: "In the last public comment permitted on the missiles, Capt. G. E. Stangenberg, acting chief of the Swedish air defense department, said in reply to a question as to whether the bombs were of Russian origin: 'I can't confirm that but I cannot deny it either.'" 192.

News out of Stockholm on the 13th reported that one unit of the Swedish military search teams, a reconnaissance plane, had been struck head-on by a ghost rocket and the three-man crew killed instantly.

The report said that a search plane had radioed that the crew had just sighted a ghost rocket, and then, suddenly, contact was lost with the aircraft as an explosion was heard in the area. No further details were given. 193.

Also: "The newspaper Aftonbladet said a flying bomb caused another plane to crash near Vaggeryd in southern Sweden. It was not known whether there were casualties." 194.

To add to the Swedish military headaches, an army ground search team, making a sweep along the Swedish-Norwegian border, vanished mysteriously. 195.

Both the Swedish press and public were alarmed and made bitter complaints, but the Swedish military authorities and government officials maintained a mysterious silence. 196.

The newspaper Dagen Nyheter in particular made heated comments, suggesting that the term "ghost rocket" should be replaced with "earthly phenomenon." 197.

The Swedish military called a nation-wide alert. Air bases, radar stations, and various military units were put on standby to help in the hunt for rocket remains. 198.

And another report that merits attention was a newspaper story dated August 13th which read: "The thing rotated while emitting a continuous stream of sparks. Suddenly it lost speed and fell into the water..." 199. Unfortunately nothing more was revealed.

Also, on the afternoon of August 13th, a group of Danish boy scouts observed a rocket-like object moving at great velocity at the height of 500 meters. The scouts declared that the object had small side wings and fins. A blue-white light streamed from the bottom. It was believed to be radio-controlled since it suddenly curved from its original course by 35 degrees and shortly after that resumed its original course. 200.

The fireball that was seen at 8:50 p.m. Sunday night was explained as a meteor by a prominent scientist who wished to remain anonymous and who had personally observed the phenomenon. He said the fireball originated from a part of the sky that usually was the appearing point for brilliant bolides. According to reports, the fireball in question was visible over a large area of Sweden which indicated a great altitude, so consequently the scientist said he could scarcely doubt the cosmic origin of the fireball. 201.

More August 13th manifestations.

At Karlskrona, Sweden, at 8:00 p.m., the following was observed:

"The object passed the witness at a distance of only 150 feet. It was cigar-shaped and only 5 feet long. The body emitted a faint green light and smoke was seen issuing from the rear." 202.

Moreover, at Stockholm that day a "rocket" was seen that:

"...produced an immense purple light and, as far as the witness could see, was cylindrical. The observation lasted only 10 seconds." 203.

The Svenska Dagbladet's London correspondent took notice of some ghost rocket comment in England's Manchester Guardian:

"The British press has contained a great many more or less fantastic reports about the flying bombs over Sweden, but this is the first any newspaper has taken up the matter on the leading page. The reason that the time is thought ripe is probably the report from Sweden which suggests that an official Swedish protest with 'proper firmness' is soon to be expected." 204.

The Swedish Army experts and "common slag" are mentioned in a Stockholm news story dated August 13th:

"Experts in the anti-aircraft department of the Swedish Army are sifting many reports of supposed rocket projectiles fired over Southern and Central Sweden.

"One theory which has been put forward here is that Russian technicians are experimenting with new weapons in the Baltic provinces or elsewhere. All reports of the rockets speak of their coming from the southeast. The rockets have a triangular nose and are black, travel at a high speed and whine as they pass through the air. Some have been reported to disintegrate and fall to earth in small fragments, but when the fragments were analyzed in the laboratory they were found to be common slag." 205.

Further August 13th reports.

There were three so-called "spookrocket" sightings on Tuesday night in southern Sweden. The first was said to have been seen at 10:15 p.m. and had a red glow, while the other two were of a clear white color. The intervals between each was precisely five minutes and the course of all three was southwest. The speed of the objects was twice that of what a modern aircraft could achieve witnesses estimated. No sound was detected. 206.

Denmark again:

On Tuesday night persons observed a luminous object flying northeast. It was regarded by some as a rocket. The object exploded over the city of Struer with a strong burst of light. 207.

August 14th.

Back in Sweden a couple of witnesses in the central part of the country observed shortly before 6:00 p.m., August 14th, an object in the sky they said was cigar-shaped and of an aluminum color. Its altitude was estimated at 100 meters. Gleaming in the sunlight, the object sped quietly and quickly through the sky much faster than an airplane, according to those watching. Clearly visible for at least two minutes, it came out of the southeast and passed out of sight in the northwest. No fiery tail was noticed. 208.

In the same general part of the country, metal fragments allegedly from a ghost rocket crash were discovered. The material was the subject of considerable discussion and was handed over to the Swedish Air Defense authorities. The military sent investigators to the supposed crash site.

The same news story mentioned an earlier find, without identifying the date or location, and referred to an object eleven centimeters long of an unknown origin that had been found during a ground search. The news story said that the object had a "letter and a legible figure on it," or as the Swedish wording went: "...av bokstaver och fullt lasliga siffror." 209.

This find, however, led to another dead end in the opinion of Swedish authorities:

"The experts have ascertained with certainty that the eleven centimeter long object of unknown origin which was found does not come from any stratosphere projectiles..." 210.

Moreover, in Finland, a laborer in the city of Tammerfors heard a powerful explosion and at the same time saw a grey-black smoke column high up in the sky. Inside the center of the smoke he discerned a luminous figure similar to an arm in shape for awhile until it dissipated. The blast was so powerful the man heard it inside his house.

Another Tuesday night incident was the sighting of something in the sky over Helsingfor, Finland, the same day. 211.

Sweden had now reached a crisis point. The military was placed on nearly full alert. The question now was: "Should Sweden fire back at Russia, or wait until a ghost rocket hit downtown Stockholm?" Sweden paused at this critical moment.

On August 14th, the Stockholm Aftonbladet upbraided military authorities because a ghost bomb had exploded in the air low over a local lake, terrifying some boaters directly beneath the blast. The Aftonbladet, like many Swedish citizens, felt that here at last was an indication of the potential danger confronting the country.

While the Aftonbladet noted the Swedish military's claims that it had "no tangible proof" especially of Russian

mischievous, the newspaper insisted that the meteor hypothesis should have received sufficient consideration by then to draw some definite conclusions about such a theory, and that the question of Russian devices should have been settled by the examination of any fragments found. The Aftonbladet apparently leaned toward the Russian missile idea, as it suggested Sweden might be undergoing systematic intimidation for the benefit of some international political maneuver between the great powers. Though alarmed about the situation, the Aftonbladet seemed to accept the Swedish military's assertion that "little attention" was being given to a "rumor" about an aircraft that had been hit by a ghost rocket. 212.

The last comment in the foregoing account is puzzling. Did it mean the earlier reports were incorrect? Or, did it mean the episode was being suppressed?

The New York Times printed an item on the same day, the 14th, from Washington, D.C. which reported: "Under-Secretary of State, Dean Acheson, said today he personally was very much interested in reports of rockets flying over Sweden but that the Swedes had not sought any American advice on the subject." 213.

Hampered by censorship of the news stories by Swedish military directives that forced the deletion of exact locations, it is not apparent if the following August 14th incident is related to the ones previously mentioned.

In the vicinity of a small lake in northern Sweden on Wednesday a person heard a noise in the air of something approaching. The noise grew louder and louder and suddenly something was seen falling to earth nearby. The object hit the ground about 20 feet from the edge of the lake. Picked up and examined, it was a mass of about 10 cubic centimeters. The possibility that the mass was part of a "projectile" could not be determined since rain and mist at the time obscured the sky. The Swedish military was sent the material. 214.

In yet another "lake incident" Swedish radio reported:

"A flying object somewhat different from those observed previously was seen this morning by four people working in a wood yard near one of the large lakes in central Norrland. It resembled a small airplane, and flew at an altitude of about 200 meters, making a hissing noise. It had a short body, a tail and two small wings. The object descended at a 65 degree angle at colossal speed and crashed into the lake." 215.

A follow-up story said that the investigation of the alleged fall of a ghost rocket into the lake was terminated after a long effort. Metal detectors and the dragging of the muddy lake bottom yielded nothing. Draining the lakes was not considered practical.

"The 11-cm. long object of unknown origin which was taken possession of on Wednesday [August 14th] in central Sweden should not, according to the statements of experts made with certainty, issue from any space projectile, reports the defense staff. The same is true of the copper remains which also were taken today. These certainly have lain a long time on the ground.

"In spite of close examination, still nothing up to now has come forth to give a definite basis to judge whether the observed luminous phenomena and such issue from some fall of space projectile." 216.

A Danish newspaper stated:

"One of the very strange ghost rockets passed over Copenhagen last night, where it was sighted at many places on the city's northern periphery. Statements agree both in regard to time and appearance and in case [the statement] is made by a Danish military man. There cannot be talk of any fraud.

"A cottage dweller in Tuborgvej described for the Berlingske Tidende the phenomenon thusly:

'A rocket, which had the shape of a red fireball, came from the southwest and went in an easterly direction until it reached a point where it looked like it lay over Hellerup. Here it turned and took a course toward the north and disappeared in the direction of Kampenborg. I together with many others witnessed the rocket from 9:45 p.m. when it came into sight, and I was able to follow it till 10:10 p.m., when it disappeared. It made no noise, but was lighted with a little flickering gleam. The height had to be several thousand meters.

"A witness in Charlottenlund said that he saw the rocket come from the south with a course northward. The speed was mostly slower than an airplane's, likely about 100 km. He estimated the height at 4-5,000 meters. The time was 10:05 p.m., which agrees entirely with the sightings from Hellerup." 217.

August 15th.

Who Pays?

Concern about the "rocket barrage" took an unusual turn August 15th:

"The mysterious space projectiles, which recently have been observed over Sweden, have still not caused any harm, but the question has finally been dealt with of who should pay in case the ghost bombs bring about the destruction of people and property. The question is of course difficult to deal with as long as it is not known who lies behind the mysterious firings, but probably of course the state would step in as in cases of transgression against neutrality during the war, said secretary of the State War Damage, Assistant Justice of Appeals, Olof H. Appeltoft, on MT's inquiry."

"The insurance companies have a clause by which they do not pay compensation for damage in connection with 'war affairs.' During the war we in the war damages commission had to take a position on many cases in connection with breach of neutrality. The Germans tested their V-2 bombs over Swedish territory, incurring a bit of damage for

which the state made payment, but probably it will not now be the insurance company that pay the compensation debts, either.

"Fire insurance is hardly valid in such a case, said director Fraenkel in the Folket Samarbete as well." 218.

The Svenska Dagbladet reported on August 15th that in spite of the immense flood of reports of various kinds of sky phenomena, by Wednesday not the slightest evidence has been obtained. The paper stated:

"Investigations concerning the alleged projectile crash in a lake in Norrbotten have now concluded with no results.

"On Wednesday a couple of sensational reports were received concerning an object suspected to have issued from a space projectile that was found in the Sala area, but even at a very early stage this theory too could be dismissed as untenable. In one of the falls, in a place where the other day it was thought a space projectile was seen to dissolve, a driver the day before yesterday found an 11-cm. long object of unknown origin lying in the way. The object was sent to the defense staff, where on Wednesday evening it was taken for examination. It was a bolt-like thing, probably of brass or bronze, which seemed too rough and old and worn to be considered to enter into a space projectile, whose components would be of a quite different quality. The bolt rather looks like it had belonged to a farm machine of some kind, or at least some kind of motor. It seemed symbolic that that a press photographer who investigated the find without difficulty could screw tight the bolt in the stand holder of his Rolleiflex camera. Owing to this one can think that the bolt probably did originate from the stand of some older heavier land-surveying instrument. During Thursday the object got a closer examination in a series of mechanical shops in order to get the question of its origin answered.

"In another Wednesday report a metal part was found in a place where on Sunday a space projectile was supposed to have fallen. A military expert was sent to the place, and according to his preliminary investigations, it amounted to a couple of copper objects, which partly seemed old, partly lacked marks after the fall to the ground, where neither in this case is there any reason to suppose that they can be components from a space projectile. The copper pieces were found by some playful child." 219.

August 16th.

The following case was strange, but the official explanation was stranger still:

"This morning a stratospheric projectile was observed over a town in southern Sweden which exploded with a loud bang when it met a hailstorm. Afterward a strong smell of gunpowder was noticed. The explosion was so strong that the houses shook. It was about 500 meters high. After the explosion what appeared to be a mist collected, and it was still to be observed after the hailstorm had passed. According to meteorological experts, who were approached by the Air Defense Division of the General Staff, a very

probable explanation is that it was a tornado in connection with a very strong flash of lightning. The object which was believed to have been seen might have been a so-called 'coil of cloud' from the tornado." 220.

Danish radio broadcasted on August 16th that:

"Two of the so-called stratospheric rockets were observed early this morning over Storeby near Koege. They came from the south and resembled cigars with flames...one of the rockets was at an altitude of about one kilometer and it was possible to follow its course northward. The rockets were seen by several people." 221.

The Danish press had this to say the next day. It seems that a young man in the north part of Copenhagen observed on Saturday morning a luminous object, like a round blue light. The young man, an employee of a Danish airline company, claimed that the phenomenon was no doubt a "spook rocket."

On the other hand, the well known astronomer Luplau-Jensen explained on Saturday in the newspaper Aftenbladet that many rocket reports were just shooting stars that were numerous at this time of year. 222.

Further Danish comment was made by a writer for the newspaper Social-Democrat. He wrote that in his opinion the appearance of "ghost rockets" over the country was not necessarily of a serious character. That Thursday there had been the sighting of something in the air with reports coming in from several places in Sjall and the mystery object turned out to be just a paper balloon. A large paper bag with a candle inside had fooled everyone when in the dark the bag assumed the appearance of a glowing bullet. 223.

Unfortunately, for the forementioned theory, the vast majority of sightings did not mention slow moving objects that might have been wafted by the wind.

In Sweden the Prime Minister postponed a protest to a "certain foreign power" because of continued puzzlement over the nature and origin of the mystery missiles. Only a six-inch metal fragment had been found during the all-out ground search and it apparently failed to have a connection with the problem. 224. The Christian Science Monitor's London representative put the dilemma in plainer terms by saying, "...without proof the Swedes are unable to take any action." 225.

"Fear and Anger?"

In an editorial the newspaper Morgon-Tidningen made fun of a rival:

Principal Annual Meteor Showers between June 1st and September 30th:

Name:	Duration in days:	Date of Maximum:	Usual number of bright meteors:
Pons-Winnecke	7	June 28	7
Delta Aquarids	3	July 28	27
Perseids	25	August 11	69

"Ghost rockets are thought to have brought on a nervous breakdown in the UNT's editorship. In a leading article is shown first a sound skepticism toward the reports streaming in from every place in the country and newspaper declarations that the military authorities still know nothing of whether there is any question of air traffic struck. So far everything is fine. But then the writer is gripped with fear and anger at the same time and his imagination runs away. Perhaps the military knows something after all but conceals it. Perhaps the UT has inspired this reticence. Perhaps the government is afraid of the displeasure of some powerful neighbor to announce what it knows. Perhaps it is consideration for trade negotiations which causes this 'foreign policy timidity.' The public becomes increasingly restless. The government must calm this by putting 'its hand heavy on and firm on the table.'

"So it runs on in this vein..." 226.

The Svenska Dagbladet stated:

"The 'projectile' find which was depicted on yesterday's (August 15th) third page, has now been exposed, and it is very certainly a 1 1/4 inch steam valve.

"It was a mechanic in Edsby who had the kindness to telegraph his discovery to the Svenska Dagbladet. His theory is presumably right, since a metal worker in Stockholm telephoned to say that the thing was a spindle to a steam valve.

"Flight director G. Noren to whom the find was forwarded, himself suggested that it was a part of an old land surveying instrument, but by Thursday evening had not yet gotten confirmation from the land survey administration. Under no circumstances is it any object from a space projectile." 227.

The crash inquiry:

"The crash (inquiry) commission appointed for the air accident in Vaggeryd has not completed its work at the accident site, but there still remain certain flight tests and other investigations before the commission can present its report, emphasized the president of the inquiry commission, Lt. Col. Svenow.

"We have established that no explosion took place in the air, said the Lt. Colonel. This statement was supported by many witnesses who stated that the plane was whole when it struck the ground. Only one witness believes he saw an explosion in the air. Beyond the witnesses' reports pictures of the crash site indicated too that no explosion could have occurred in the air before the crash. A theory that the plane was struck by a space rocket thus can be dismissed." 228.

In any event, the ghost rockets kept up their relentless barrage. On August 16th a mystery missile zipped to a position over Malmo, Sweden where it produced a blast that broke a great number of windows. Authorities sent out search teams to locate tiny particles of the exploded missile reported to be seen raining down. At the same time, citizens at Denmark's capital, Copenhagen, reported seeing another rocket speeding through the heavens during the night. 229.

Between the 14th and the 21st of August, almost a dozen rocket sightings were recorded over Danish territory. Following the lead of Sweden, the Danish War Ministry ordered all of the nation's newspapers to censor the exact locations of any mystery missile reports, and then it began an official investigation. 230.

August 17th.

Saturday, August 17th, an object termed a "spook rocket" by the press was seen at the city of Borgatrakten, Finland. The red bright flaming object passed over at about 1,500 feet altitude and disappeared in a puff of smoke. 231.

The evening of the 17th in Denmark about sundown another sighting occurred. Danish radio announced:

"Many people say that they saw stratospheric rockets over Oeresund last night. Two oblong, glowing objects moving from south to north... over Snekkesten." 232.

The Svenska Dagbladet had some additional details about the Danish manifestation. The paper reported that the objects: "...occasionally ejected sizeable smoke clouds...[and] went slower than an airplane." 233.

The morning of the 17th in Finland at a railway station in Traskanda, near Helsingfors, an object was spotted flying in an east-west direction. The height was estimated at 1,500 feet. The object was a clear glaring light that reminded witnesses of a magnesium flare. 234.

By this time rumors became so rampant in Stockholm that the "low flying luminous bombs," as they were being termed by some, dominated conversations throughout the city. Imaginations were becoming more and more inflamed. Yet, strangely enough, when windows were smashed in Tromso, on the 17th, by another aerial blast of suspicious origin, the Swedish Defense Staff insisted that lightning had been the cause. 235.

Sunday, August 18th.

Object over Nassjo:

"A so-called ghost bomb passed over Nassjo[Sweden] on Sunday morning at 1:40 a.m. Two persons saw a comet-like fireball pass the city at an apparently low height.

"The fireball, which was reflected against the sky at about a decimeter's diameter, moved with seemingly great speed in a westerly direction. In a talk with the Svenska Dagbladet's correspondent, one of the persons who saw the fireball stated that the view was apparently good and that the round projectile had a round-edged lighted surface but no tail or other features could be observed. It moved in a horizontal plane with some rising in its path, and therefore could not have been any heavenly body." 236.

A person at a place in central Sweden observed at 6:30 p.m. Sunday a "luminous ball" in the heavens. The ball appeared to be about three inches in diameter; or as the Swedish witness put it: like a "kroket-klots" or croquet ball. The ball hit and snapped a telephone line. Of the ball nothing was found. 237.

"Violent explosion."

Swedish radio broadcasting from Stockholm announced:

"A report from Goeteborg says that a mysterious bright light and violent explosion occurred so near the buildings that it was at first feared that a barn had caught fire. The explosion was heard round about (?) the farms and at some places a bright light resembling a meteor was seen shortly before the blast. Some observers say that they are convinced that the stratospheric projectile was an ordinary meteor." 238.

The Associated Press then received news from Paris that told of whistling, rocket-like objects, leaving red-orange glowing trails of vapor. The objects had been alarming the district of Chatillon-sur-Seine nightly for a week. 239.

Meanwhile, the international situation was anything but bright in East-West relations. The United States had delivered an ultimatum to Communist Yugoslavia over the shooting down of an American airplane, and had backed up Turkey in that nation's refusal of bilateral control with the Soviet Union of the Dardanelles. Diplomatic reporters in Washington, D.C. expressed opinions that America's relations with Russia had sunk to a post war nadir. Strangely enough, diplomatic relations between the Soviets and the Scandinavian powers was one of the few bright spots in an otherwise dark European picture. The Russians had a track team touring Sweden, and the Soviets publicly supported Sweden's and Iceland's admission into the United Nations "with pleasure," as the Reds themselves expressed it. Moreover, the Finnish border dispute with Russia had been settled in the latter's favor, with the Soviets gaining the major part of the Karelia territory, Petsamo in the Arctic, and the Baltic port of Pokkala near Helsinki. Also, the large Danish island of Bornholm, just a short distance north of the Peenemunde test base, had been occupied by Russian troops at the close of the war, but the Communists had evacuated the island on March 18, 1946 with little hesitation. Surely that island would have been of value if rockets were being launched on test flights from the old German missile installation. Therefore, all things considered, diplomatic observers called the "Swedish rocket barrage" mysterious and mentioned that there was "under-cover" concern in Washington. 240.

Like other journalists, Ernest Lindley thought that the boasting of the publicity specialists of the U.S. armed services so far that summer had been a strange mixture of fancy and ambition. Prophecies of American intercontinental rockets, satellite vehicles, and space ships, seemed premature. Perhaps, he suggested, the generals in the Pentagon were becoming insecure. The cause of this insecurity, he believed, apparently was the superiority of the "Russian ghost rockets." Lindley wrote: "The indications are that the Russians, with German help, are now sending pilotless missiles up to 900 miles-more than three times the range of the V-2." 241.

The Danish Berlingske Tidende published the following assertions about an August 18th case. At 10:00 p.m. on Sunday an object in the sky was sighted at Copenhagen in the capital's northern environs. The object blew up with extraordinary force producing a great fireball. The object had been on a south to north course at a slow speed before the blast. 242.

The Dagens Nyheter's August 19th contribution told of six persons seeing an object flying just above roof-tops at 8:00 p.m. that evening:

"It was shaped like a 9 foot long cigar and at the nose we could see some small spheres; a bluish light was produced at the rear. No sound was heard." 243.

A special dispatch datelined Stockholm, August 20th, announced that American Intelligence officials were now on the scene in Sweden. The visit was thinly veiled, evidently for the benefit of the Soviet Union:

"Two United States experts on aerial warfare, General James Doolittle and David Sarnoff, arrived in Stockholm today, apparently independent of each other. The official explanation is that General Doolittle, who is now vice-president of the Shell Oil Company, is inspecting Shell branch offices in Europe and selling oil and gasoline, while General Sarnoff, who is president of the Radio Corporation of America and a former member of General Dwight D. Eisenhower's London staff, is studying the market for radio equipment.

"The two men arrive here as reports on 'phantom bombs' are more numerous than ever. The Chief of the Swedish Defense Staff, Col. C.R.S. Kempt, said tonight he was extremely interested in asking the two generals advice and, if possible, would place all available reports before them. 244.

The most important aspect of the Times story was in reference to radar. Evidently electronic detection was the real reason the two American experts went to Sweden. Not only was Europe's security threatened, but the United States might expect a similar missile danger in the future. The Times story continued:

"General Doolittle, who arrived from Oslo, where he saw King Haakon of Norway, said on his arrival that he was merely on a business trip but was willing to place his knowledge and experience at the disposal of Swedish authorities in case they wanted his advice. He pointed out that it had been possible in England during the war to detect the range of German planes, the place where they took off and their height. He was highly surprised that the Swedes had not yet found a trace of a rocket and also that no theory was advanced.

"General Sarnoff said definitely that it was possible today by means of radar to detect the range, height, and even the place from which rockets are fired. He said he was willing to give advice if the Swedes wanted it." 245.

A (TT) dispatch from Reuter stated:

"Doolittle's visit has no direct connection with the projectiles, 'states a representative of the Shell Oil Company. 'His trip to the Scandinavian countries was planned in reality six months ago, long before any projectiles were seen over Sweden. Doolittle is chief of our aviation division and his trip to Scandinavia is merely intended as an inspection tour.'

" Meanwhile Secretary of State Dean Acheson stated in Washington that no American experts were sent to Sweden in connection with rocket flights over Swedish territory." 246.

Decades later, when Doolittle reached the age of 85, he was interviewed by UFO researcher William Moore. The retired general impressed Moore as being very mentally alert. When asked about the events of 1946, Doolittle recalled clearly his European trip of August, all of it except his visit to Sweden which Moore's associate, Stan Friedman, later said was a strange case of: "...very selective amnesia." 247.

Although they were still engaged in the preliminary testing of their captured V-2 rockets at White Sands, the American military experts must have been well aware of the possibility of missiles of more advanced design approximating the "ghost bombs" then alarming Sweden. In fact, on August 21st, the very day the Generals Doolittle and Sarnoff were in Stockholm, speculations by a professor at the California Institute of Technology appeared in many U.S. newspapers telling of a German scientist by the name of Eugene Sanger. Sanger had suggested a variant of the V-2 rocket design during the war.

He believed the addition of short wings to the V-2 would improve its performance. By utilizing the lift, the wings would give as the V-2 re-entered the atmosphere on its downward plunge. The V-2 would glide up to from two to three thousand miles, skipping along like "a flat stone on the surface of a body of water." 248.

Meanwhile, reporters interviewed a Swedish scientist who had just arrived in the United States to inspect American scientific facilities. Evidently to underline Sweden's desire for peace, the Swedish professor, a Dr. Ragnar Woxen, emphasized that the recently established Swedish Atomic Control Committee was supervised by civilian physicists to the exclusion of military officers. When pressed to comment on the ghost rocket barrage, the professor replied with great brevity, mentioning only that some missiles were reported to have "fallen into lakes." 249.

August 21st.

A French news story from Paris declared:

"Inhabitants of the Dijon area, Burgundy, report that huge elongated projectiles passed overhead at prodigious speeds, emitting a whistling noise. It is believed they were rockets. No official confirmation is forthcoming." 250.

The American news service Associated Press noted on August 21st that at least 12 "ghost rockets" had so far been observed in the skies over Denmark with at least one exploding over Copenhagen. The news service added that as a consequence of the increasing "traffic" authorities have requested that the press use an expression like "somewhere in northern Denmark" when reporting ghost rocket sightings. 251.

"Danish collaboration?"

The Swedish Morgon-Tidningen reported on August 22nd:

"The space projectile over Denmark, according to the Nationaltidende, appear to be a reality, and since now military experts have gotten hold of metal parts from one or more projectiles and are carrying on investigations of them, they have entered into collaboration with Swedish military technicians to try to clarify the matter.

* There is a curious reference to something similar that may, or may not, have some significance. Dr. Robert Sarbacher, a top American scientist who was questioned about the controversial MJ-12 documents in the 1980s, remarked that back in 1950s the U.S. Research and Development Board received regular UFO sightings from the Air Force for review plus reports of objects: "... which fell into water and subsequent failed recovery attempts." 252.

"On the side of the Swedish military it was stated on TT's inquiry [that] nothing was known about the collaboration referred to in the above telegram." 253.

Also that Wednesday at about 1:30 a.m., two persons at a place in southern Sweden witnessed phenomenon in the sky that reminded them of a ghost rocket. It was a fireball which passed parallel to the ground high overhead. The object had an intense tail of fire and was silent. After a brief time the ball disappeared, and four to five seconds later so did the fiery wake. The direction was west to southwest. 254.

While Dr. Woxen was meeting with the press in the United States, General Doolittle conferred with the head of the Swedish Air Force and his staff on the phantom bomb problem and went over the results of Swedish investigations into the phenomenon. Since the meeting had been officially publicized, Swedish authorities apparently felt compelled to reveal the fact that many of the ghost rockets had been detected on radar and that such methods held promise in ending the mystery.

The New York Times also learned:

"Simultaneously a spokesman for the Swedish Defense Staff stated that the Swedes had obtained 'certain results with radar, which registered the presence of bombs over the country.'

"Registrations were made during days when reports on the bombs were most numerous. It is believed that in the near future they will reveal the type and identity of the bomb." 255.

The Swedish Air Force Command then denied a statement, attributed to the British Foreign Office, which implied that American and British help was being actively sought.

What may be the most important aspect of the Swedish-American exchange was mentioned in New York Times story dated August 22nd. It read, "...certain new measures were discussed with Doolittle." It isn't clear what these new measures were, but news on the rocket bombs all but disappeared. Were stronger censorship rules suggested? 256.

UFO expert Jacques Vallee, a French scientist, claimed in 1979 that: "...Jimmy Doolittle was sent to Sweden in 1946 to investigate reports of a crashed 'ghost rocket,' but his report has never been declassified." 257.

The New York Times had this to add:

"At the moment British experts are demonstrating radar to Swedish emissaries and there is not much doubt that a deal will be made and that both equipment and operators will be shipped to Sweden in the near future." 258.

A correspondent for the Christian Science Monitor stated on August 22nd that not only were the locations of the ghost rocket sightings being censored but also the publication of reports themselves. The British Foreign Office admitted a day later that British radar experts had been to Sweden to investigate the ghost rockets and that they had returned to submit secret reports as to the origin of the strange flying objects.^{259.}

A large question mark exists at this point in our story. Were the Intelligence experts beginning to consider a "non-Russian" origin? If so, what kind of "non-Russian" source? Would any new development in such official thinking call for "new measures"? With the foregoing thoughts in mind, let us return to what can be learned from American and European newspapers.

Also on August 22nd something was seen in the heavens over the central Norrland district by two persons. The thing was ball-shaped, blue-white in color, and had a luminous tail. The fireball moved with great speed in a northeasterly direction.^{260.}

From the Tranebery area at 6:00 p.m., there was a stationary "luminous ball" sighting. In the sky above Ulvsumdasjon an object of a clear, shiny appearance, with a faint smoke ring around it, was seen. At 7:00 p.m. at the city of Stock-sund a witness saw a "moving star" making its way across the sky in a slow and jerky fashion. It moved slowly from the northwest toward the south at 3,000 feet altitude and suddenly winked out. Was it a balloon?

At Saltsjobaden there was observed in the vault of the heavens an object that appeared to be a "bright star" at a height of 18,000 to 20,000 feet. It was viewed for several minutes until it exploded at 6:57 p.m. Was it another balloon? The meteorological experts at the city of Fromma notified the press that a radio station had sent up a balloon with an instrument box attached. The balloon went up to a height of 20,000 feet where its reflection could be seen as far away as Bromma.^{261.}

The Swedish Air Force Command denied on August 22nd that:

"British radar experts have come to Sweden in connection with the 'rocket projectiles' seen over Sweden recently. 'There has been no question of foreign help.' An Air Force communique said: 'The report may have arisen through confusion over negotiations now proceeding in Britian and the United States for the purchase of echo-radio radar equipment for the normal use of our Air Force.'"

"These negotiations had been proceeding for a long time and had nothing to do with projectiles flying over Sweden. They were stated

because Sweden's present equipment was unsatisfactory when used against fast jet-planes like the Vampires recently purchased from England.'" 262.

Another explanation.

A supposed ghost rocket, which on Thursday night was observed in the heavens over the northern cities of Sweden, was allegedly found and it turned out to be a radio transmitter from a weather station balloon launched from Bromma. A municipal worker found a parachute in the vicinity of Hagerstensvagen and Backvagen in the Aspudden district. At the police station in Liljeholmens the parachute and a document explaining the find was put in a box for safekeeping. 263.

Irish mystery.

The August 24th edition of England's Manchester Guardian published:

"No explanation was forthcoming today of a mysterious explosion at Waterford (Ireland) at midnight on Wednesday. At first it was thought to be due to the detonation of a sea-mine, but the police have ascertained that no mine exploded along the coast. When the explosion occurred, men, women, and children living in the waterside district ran from their homes and remained in the streets for some time. One observer states that at the time of the explosion a vivid flash illuminated the sky, and one theory held is that an aeroplane may have blown up while in flight but no material trace of the cause of the explosion has, however, been discovered." 264.

The last of "rocket" reports listed by researcher Overbye was one discovered in the Norwegian newspaper Aftenposten which discussed a case of a Norwegian student and a friend who was a Swedish engineer. The two said they were boating on August 24th on a small river "somewhere in Sweden," the exact location being subject to censorship, when an odd appearing light approached. The student told the press:

"Suddenly as if shot out of nothingness, I saw a light appearing in the South-East coming toward us at tremendous speed. As it came nearer we could see that it resembled the full moon, perhaps a little more elliptical. The light emitted was very intense and rather like that which incendiary bombs used to produce when exploding; however, this light was bluish on the brim of the object. As it passed immediately overhead, it grew so bright you could see as well as on a sunny day! The fireball, or eldklotet as it is called by the Swedes,

had until now approached us in a parabolical trajectory. When passing us it released four 'stars' which fell silently to the ground and on landing grew dark. As these 'stars' were released, the fireball too grew dark and after a few seconds we were able to see in the dark again. We could observe an oblong rocket passing us in a perfectly horizontal trajectory about 900 feet above the ground. As far as I could tell it was about 10 feet long. At the rear we observed some glowing points, and these points were the last things we saw. The course was towards the Northwest during the whole of the observation." 265.

The newspaper reported further: "The engineer, who knew the surroundings well, estimated the speed to be in the region of 2,000 kilometers per hour." 266.

Oslo, the 26th:

The newspaper Aftenposten declared Monday that a ghost rocket was observed over Oslo. Two persons observed it at the exact same time which was 8:55 a.m. A strong luminous object passed over the city coming from the northeast and disappeared in a southerly direction. It had about the same speed as a pursuit plane according to witnesses.

Some persons suggested that the two witnesses had merely seen a meteor. 267.

"A little black cloud came travelling."

Uppsala, Sweden:

"A sky phenomenon was observed on Tuesday [August 27th] afternoon at 5:30 p.m. over a lake in central Sweden. At around 300-400 meters above the surface of the water came a 'little black cloud' travelling and it disappeared with unheard-of speed out of the range of vision. No whirlwind could be involved, the informant thinks." 268.

August 27th.

9:00 p.m.:

Two "ghost rockets" were visible Tuesday night, August 27th, at a place in southern Sweden. The objects passed overhead at five minute intervals in a south to north direction and at an estimated 600 feet (!) altitude. Both objects were reddish and almost ball-shaped in appearance. In addition, the objects had tails of light. The speed was said to be tremendous. 269.

General Nils Ahlgren:

A representative for the London Daily Express, on assignment in Stockholm, interviewed Sweden's Air Force Chief of

Staff, General Nils Ahlgren about the sky phenomenon reports pouring into the offices of the military. The Express correspondent said that the most mysterious object being seen was a "spook bomb," a slow, silent object that flew in a straight line.

He also learned the following from General Ahlgren:

- The objects have been detected on radar by the Swedish Air Force flying in a northerly direction.
- The objects were of two types--a winged projectile which flew horizontally with the speed of about 800 kilometers per hour with a clear light that streamed from the rear, and another projectile which fell vertically from a very great height at tremendous velocity and also is said to have had wings. 270.

The General refused to accept any of the stories that claimed projectiles had exploded on or close to the ground. The Air Force Chief did admit, however, that objects had exploded in the air but no fragments had been recovered.

The correspondent wrote that he had been told Swedish radar had not been able to locate any missile launching site although it was suspected that the objects being reported may come from a Russian base at Peenemunde. 271.

As for the question of whether or not the Russians were responsible for the ghost rockets, Farish and Clark discovered an item in the August 27, 1946 issue of the London Daily Telegraph which indicated that the Communists were also ignorant of the origin of the ghost rockets and were quietly collecting information about the phenomenon. The Daily Telegraph's source of information was an alleged contact within the Swedish Communist Party. 272.

Another "meteor?"

An exploding object Tuesday night, August 27th, frightened people a bit in northern Jutland, Denmark. At 9:30 p.m., a peculiar yellow-white light lit up houses in a village and instantly thereafter a ball-shaped object exploded at tree-top height sending out a blinding light.

Moreover, over eastern Denmark another object was observed. It flashed by at a great altitude. 273.

Plastic or glass spook bombs?

A London dispatch of August 30th:

"The first serious reports of "spook bombs" exploding on Swedish soil, reached Swedish anti-aircraft headquarters today, according to the Daily

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FROM EFSE TO RAVNDAL

Still interested receiving further information
on matters described URTEL 1192, July 29, 1946. Please
send promised details and any new information on
entire subject since that date.

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AUG 1946

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Express correspondent in Stockholm. They are said to have exploded very near the observers and not in the air as previously, but again no one was injured and no fragments were recovered.

"The correspondent adds that the authorities are considering a new theory--that the bombs are made largely of plastic or glass which disintegrates at the moment of explosion.

"The reports deepen the mystery surrounding these silent high speed missiles, which--if all reports are to be believed--the Russians are firing in large numbers, the correspondent remarks." 274.

On August 30th the London Evening News printed: "...that Sweden has asked Britain for sound photographs(?) to find the launching sites of the rocket projectiles which have been flying over Swedish territory." 275.

Norway notified the press on August 31st that in the future all rocket sightings were to be sent to the Intelligence Department of the Norwegian High Command. Any discussion of the ghost rockets in Norwegian newspapers was banned. 276.

In Sweden, where only limited censorship was still in effect, the Swedish High Command let it be known that it had developed a "new Explosive Theory" to explain why the radar-tracked mystery rockets explode and yet leave nothing for metal detectors to find. The Swedes had the idea that an unusual explosive was being used in an extremely efficient self-destruct system which fragmented the ghost rocket into particles as small as dust. 277.

The Russians, in the Soviet foreign affairs weekly New Times, issued a denunciation of Western allegations. Charges that the ghost rockets were Russian devices meant to intimidate the Swedes, the New Times called "anti-Soviet slander" designed to "poison the international atmosphere." The Moscow publication further stated: "...that although one Swedish newspaper had concluded that the alleged missiles were nothing but a mirage, the 'panic' spread by the reports was not a mirage but a real fact." 278.

Official silence then prevailed. News out of Scandinavia shrank to nearly nothing. The silence did not deter the London Daily Mail which sent one of its best men to Stockholm. The Mail's representative, Alexander Clifford, cabled to London what he had learned as of the first of that September. It seems there was not much new to report. He found that Swedish public opinion varied. Some believed the sightings to be mass hallucinations and others believed them to be luminous balloons. On the official side, scientists that he had contacted had expressed bafflement, and from all indications the Swedish and Danish military staffs were deeply worried. Generally, the phenomena seemed to be wingless, low-flying, tube-like objects, that moved silently

through the air except for an occasional whistling. The things flew from one hundred to two hundred miles an hour, sometimes trailing flame and smoke. The phenomenon had its beginnings in the northern region of Scandinavia's Lapland back in May, and then shifted its activities slowly southward. So far, unofficially some two thousand sightings had been tabulated. 279.

The "southern shift" idea gained increased credibility when, in the month of September, the ghost rockets phenomenon moved beyond the news restrictions of Scandinavia and appeared in the Mediterranean region.

The New York Times reported:

"Acting Foreign Minister Stephanos Stephanopoulos (of Greece) supported a statement in London by Premier Constantin Tsaldaris that flying rockets have been seen in northern Greece (the night of September 1-2). He said that Greek divisional commanders and British officers had seen them both east and west of Salonika traveling from north to south...(also) that rockets estimated to be flying at heights of 15,000 to 30,000 feet, had been spotted at Drama, 130 miles northeast of Salonika, and just below the Bulgarian border. The Foreign Minister added that an investigation was under way." 280.

Moreover, Premier Tsaldaris told newsmen: "We do not know where they (the rockets) were from or from which direction they came." 281.

The Manchester Guardian's special correspondent stationed in Salonika, giving his view of the incident, blamed the reports of rockets seen over Salonika on the war of nerves being waged against Greece by its hostile Communist neighbors to the north. He did admit, however, that the British Consul had witnessed a strange light in the sky the evening of September 1st, but had dismissed the phenomenon as probably fireworks since the lumination was so near the ground. 282.

A third version of the sighting of rockets over Greece was filed by a representative of the Chicago Tribune Press Service. It read:

"Four mysterious rockets were sighted over Greece on the night of September 1, the date of the plebiscite on the return of exiled King George II, it was disclosed today by Greek Premier Constantin Tsaldaris. One rocket, the premier said, passed over Salonika at 5,000 feet and fell into the sea. Asked the direction whence the rocket came, he replied,

'It certainly did not come from the Mediterranean.' Other rockets passed over Mounts Belles and Pailken, in Macedonia near the Greek, Yugoslav, and Bulgarian border, and over the town of Katharini, near Larissa." 283.

Adriatic Sea:

"A 'ghost bomb' was, according to Italian newspapers, reported observed yesterday [September 2nd] over the Adriatic Sea. Fishermen from Ancona have reported that they observed the mysterious projectile, which fell down into the sea and threw up a high vapor cloud. Since neither artillery fire from a warship took place in those waters nor was any military airplane reported over the area, it is thought that the projectile was a rocket bomb of the German V-type, which was fired from a base on Yugoslavian territory." 284.

Athens, September 6th:

"British military authorities in Athens stated officially tonight that reports of rockets being seen in the areas of Northern Greece are entirely without confirmation from any British source. The authorities point out that firing of rocket projectiles necessitates elaborate emplacements and installations of which there are no reports." 285.

Chateauroux, France.

A ball of fire was witnessed shooting through the air in a southwest direction. A second and similar phenomena was noticed a few hours later. This happened the night of September 7th. 286.

A day later a news wire from Athens told of a "flying bomb" zooming over Drama and Doxato in eastern Macedonia. The object disappeared over the city of Tharos. A similar object was spotted moving south over Pharsala. 287.

If there did exist some complacency among the British at this time, it must have surely been shattered in the following weeks. The following reports appeared in the press. The locations of the sightings showed that not only were sightings of the mysterious objects shifting southward, but that they seemed to be spreading out fan-wise.

The British Directorate of Intelligence (Research) of the British Air Ministry, filed a document on September 9, 1946, which summarized ten of the better "ghost rockets" reports as an aid to the understanding of the problem. The document read:

"The majority of observations over Scandinavia refer either to light phenomena, to bright, shining, luminous or fiery balls, or else, to cylin-

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : NOB - Mr. Morgan

DATE: September 4, 1946

FROM : CON - Mr. Lyon *g*

SUBJECT:

TOP SECRET

Jack:

The following is the text of telegram no. 1338 dated August 29 from our Legation at Stockholm:

"Depts 1398, August 27.

"While over 800 reports have been received and new reports come daily, Sweden still have no tangible evidence. Full details of reports thus far received have been forwarded to Washington by our Military and Naval Attaches. My own source personally convinced some foreign power is actually experimenting over Sweden and he guesses it is Russia. He has promised to notify me before anyone else if anything tangible should be discovered."



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drical or cigar-shaped objects, sometimes with a bright light in the tail, occasionally in the nose. The following are some examples of descriptions given by observers:

- "(a) Like a glowing iron rod, thicker and light red in front, turning to orange at the back. Two meters long at 200-300 meters range.
- "(b) Magnesium--like light in front; behind that a section narrowing conically, partly lighted by a yellowish light coming from the back. The yellowish light dropped bright particles. Visible 15 seconds.
- "(c) White core surrounded by bluish green color, the size of a full moon. Four stars spurted off and were extinguished, after which the ball of fire died out and a black, roughly oblong, pointed object, 1.5 meters long went on with a pale red coloration behind. No wings or tail, no sound.
- "(d) Shining ball with long bluish white tail dying out over the horizon.
- "(e) Oblong torpedo-shaped object more than one meter long with pale yellowish point, blue shimmering tail, more than 0.5 meters long.
- "(f) Black object followed by flame with very bright light.
- "(g) A rocket about 5 meters long and dark colored, flying at height of about 1,000 meter speed estimated at 1,000 kilometers per hour.
- "(h) Missile observed through binoculars for 2 minutes. Length estimated as 2 meters. Said to be glowing all over, and the body gave out a clear flashing flame, like a short tail behind it. Trajectory was uneven, sometimes up a little, sometimes down a little, in an irregular manner. Looked like a burning torpedo with no wings, tail or propulsion unit." 288.

Sky object reports had dropped to a low level by September 10th, but they still came in with some regularity.

A number of clear radar returns were registered by both the Swedish Air Force and the Coast Artillery Command and according to official Swedish records at least one clear radar echo and simultaneous visual sighting of a suspicious luminous phenomenon was made.

Ground control interception of aerial intruders was of a primitive nature in 1946 but by autumn of that year the Swedish military attempted to ring Stockholm with such a network, unfortunately by that time "ghost rockets" were sporadic and on those few occasions when something did appear, the defense forces happened to be on stand down.

Suspicious of possible Russian rocket launches were great enough to prompt action by the Swedish Defense Radio Institute. BIB bombers equipped with radio direction finding gear were ordered to sweep the Baltic seeking electronic transmissions that might be guiding flying bombs.

Neither radar or radio provided the evidence desired, something conclusive. 289.

Sweden, September 10th:

An object with a blue-white glow and a luminous tail was sighted over southern Sweden by several people. 290.

Denmark, September 11th:

A radio report stated:

"During the past two days several aircraft of unknown nationality have been seen over (the island of) Bornholm. During the same time ghost rockets have been observed over the western areas of Denmark. 291.

Sweden again:

At a couple of places in western Sweden, a phenomenon was seen on September 11th that observers judged to be a "ghost-rocket." Parts of the ball-like object trailed streams of light and smoke. It went as fast as a fighter plane said witnesses. 292.

In Scandinavia we find that on September 12th, villagers at a place west of Stockholm about 10:05 p.m. that Thursday night heard an explosion in the air that was so powerful the window panes rattled. On that particular night it was overcast and rainy so no fragments from the blast were expected to be recovered. 293.

Back in Sweden, for more than ten kilometers distance, an explosion was felt in the area of Fittja. Persons living there at first thought a bomber had crashed in, or near, the town. In the city of Ronninge, rumors spread that a "ghost rocket" had met a violent end in the sky. 294.

Austria.

"According to another unconfirmed report received here, a mysterious rocket projectile passed over Graz[Austria] in the British occupation zone on Thursday afternoon. The projectile went at a great height in a northwesterly direction." 295.

Yet another fireball was observed at 5:00 p.m. Saturday speeding above central Sweden. 296.

Holland, September 14th:

A flying fireball with a tail was sighted at night over northern and eastern Holland. The report was published in several provincial newspapers. Many saw the phenomenon, particularly those living along the Dutch-German border as the object sped soundlessly at high speed east to west at an estimated 400 meters altitude. 297.

France, also September 14th:

"In the heavens over the province of Lorraine some mysterious and alarming meteors crossed overhead.

"A few days later there was a remarkable phenomena in the district of Longway.

"What was seen could not in any manner have been confused with lights of an airplane or a shooting star. The strange lights were watched for a long time. The lights resembled two luminous globes that shined like an electric arc. The globes flew in a straight line and were followed by glowing wakes. Small when first sighted, they became larger as they approached." 298.

A foreign sighting even farther afield came from India. A report from the chief city of the vale of Kashmir, Srinagar, September 14th, declared that a "mysterious luminous body" was observed flying over Kashmir in a westerly direction Saturday night. The flying object gave off a smoke stream. A Russian radio broadcast verified that something had passed over the small city of Tharadambash in Russian Pamir, but offered no detail, and as usual they tried to make a political issue out of the matter by charging the British with planning to parachute troops into the Kashmir-Sinkiang-Afghanistan border region to establish control over the inhabitants. British officials in New Dehli, India, denounced the Russian accusations as fantasy. 299.

Greece made news Saturday night when, according to press dispatches, two "rockets" passed over Patras. 300.

At Alemtejo, Portugal, at dawn the next day, people saw a "strange bluish ball of light" which was visible for over five minutes on September 14th. 301. On the 16th "luminous rockets" were observed at Oporto and Deure. 302.

South of Portugal at Tangiers, North Africa, between midnight and 1:00 a.m. on three successive nights (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday), large balls of fire trailing long streams of green color streaked with red were seen. There was speculation that the phenomenon may have some connection with the sky objects being reported in northern Europe and that the fireballs may be flying bombs. 303.

A similar phenomena was viewed at Fez Para, near Casablanca, on Saturday. Witnesses sighted long thin trails of yellow-green marking the sky.

Holland:

"Flying fireballs with glowing tails, traveling noiselessly at high speed, have been reported at night over the north and east of Holland." 304.

From Germany came word from the British military on Tuesday, the 17th, that an object of the same type as observed in Sweden was seen over the British occupational zone. 305.

Also from Germany came this:

"At 9:05 p.m. what appeared to be a ball of fire was seen flying over the district of Pinneburg. It came from the southeast. It was white, had a tail, and was traveling at great speed." 306.

A repeat performance in Portugal, at Castanheira, took place September 18th when a pair of greenish globes zoomed overhead following each other at close intervals.

The Lisbon Observatory remarked: "...it is a matter perhaps of meteors but their appearance is curious from the fact that the observations followed each at such close intervals." 307.

At the Spanish city of Oviedo on the Bay of Biscay coast, a greenish ball of light crossed the sky early in the morning on September 20th. 308.

As this was going on, tensions and uncertainties were beginning to bedevil America's Intelligence establishment. On September 17, 1946, Major General William Donovan, wartime head of the Office of Strategic Services, attacked the new National Intelligence Authority, calling it a "phony." He charged that the service had yet to be truly integrated, while the Soviet Union edged to a forward position in Europe. 309.

The biggest news of September 19th was the sensational ouster of President Truman's Secretary of Commerce, Henry Wallace. Large newspaper headlines proclaimed: "TRUMAN KEEPS WALLACE UNDER PLEDGE OF SILENCE," and: "PRESIDENT DISAVOWS SOVIET WAR." Wallace resigned at Truman's request

because he felt the President was: "...blind to realities which threaten an atomic war." 310. The former cabinet member made public a letter which stated: "...a school of military thinking (in the Pentagon)...advocated a preventive war on Russia before the Soviets have atomic bombs." 311.

On September 20th, U.S. Army Chief of Staff General Dwight D. Eisenhower left for Europe to confer with the British Imperial Staff. The press remarked: "It is understood that close Anglo-American cooperation in the development of guided missiles is sought." 312.

Apparently in an attempt to calm down a rising tide of concern, there appeared comments about "hysteria." Three days before, on the 17th, the following item had appeared in the New York Times:

"Dr. Manne Siegbahn, 59-year-old Swedish nuclear physicist and Nobel Prize winner, who arrived here yesterday from Goetsborg, Sweden, on the Swedish American liner Drottningholm, expressed doubt about recent reports that rocket bombs had been fired over Sweden.

"There is no clear evidence that any guided missiles have been flying over Sweden," Dr. Siegbahn declared. 'I, myself, examined one reported to be such a missile and found it was a meteorite. I am very suspicious about the existence of any such things.'

"Dr. Siegbahn, who came to the United States to confer with American physicists, and as a Swedish delegate to the forecoming bicentennial celebration of Princeton University, declared that "hysteria" might have been a factor in reports about the missiles." 313.

Comment from Denmark on September 18th:

"Not all ghost rockets are 'genuine.' According to what the Svenska Dagbladet's Copenhagen correspondent gathered from absolutely reliable sources, it has been declared after closer investigation that the 'ghost rocket' which on September 10th in the evening was observed at various places in Denmark was a meteor which went over the sky from east to west." 314.

Modena, Italy:

"Another phenomenon similar to that recorded the other evening at 10:00 p.m. in the sky Modena occurred in our city exactly at 7:34 p.m. A kind of fireball described a short parabola in a north-easterly direction, leaving behind it a luminous trail of fire. Since at that hour there was still limited visibility, few citizens noticed the phenomenon and for the same reason." 315.

From September 22nd through the 24th, the rockets, meteors, hysteria, or what have you, appeared in the sky all over Italy. The cities of Rome, Turin, Bologna, Vercelli, Modena, Imola, Florence, Naples, and Bari reported sightings. One rocket, seen flying over Florence, was distinctly discerned changing direction in the air. Spotted at 3:15 a.m. on the night of the 22nd, the object was visible for 90 seconds. The thing made an abrupt turn in the sky over Florence and then sped south toward Rome. This maneuver convinced observers the object was not a meteor. 316. As a result of the forementioned sightings, the Italian government ordered an investigation. 317.

If these "Russian rockets" could fly from the Soviet base at Peenemunde to Naples, and back, why not London, or possibly North America? And if these "Russian rockets" flew level instead of in a ballistic arc, such a feat would take a fuel of considerable potency. Perhaps the Swedish "New Explosive Theory" was right. It seemed that the strange missiles were being powered by a super propellant.

One of the last reports from Finland stated:

"A new type of mystery rocket was reported Thursday to have been sighted over Finland by several hundred eyewitnesses during Wednesday night.

"The so-called 'ghost rocket' was said to have been observed flying in a northwesterly direction from the southeast over the central Finnish town of Jyvaskla at an estimated altitude of 15 miles.

"The latest rocket sighted over Scandinavia was called notable for its slow speed and also because the flames emitted by the missile as a result of succeeding explosions were of various colors.

"The color changed during succeeding explosions from a dim red to a glowing orange before the final strong explosion after which the rocket fell to the ground with a blinding flash.

"After each explosion the speed of the rocket appeared to increase until the final explosion burst the missile and some 10 to 15 fragments which went flying off in various directions.

"A glow from the nucleus of the rocket was said to have been observed for several minutes." 318.

Journalist Marquis Childs stated at this time that the ghost rockets must be rated: "...the most extraordinary phenomenon of postwar Europe (because reports had)...come from widely separated areas." 319. Perhaps, he suggested, international tensions were causing hysteria and that the missiles were "illusions" instead of Russian devices. However, he felt that the hysteria theory was weak because Sweden, the country most

affected by ghost rocket sightings, had a level-headed population untouched by war. Therefore, Childs could only think of one other answer. It was a feeble answer considering all the reports. Childs penned: "...perhaps the (ghost rocket mystery) ...was a stray meteor or two..." 320.

Police authorities investigated an incident that took place at Ostend, Belgium, about 12:00 p.m. the night of September 25-26th. A woman reported that a ball of light fell near her home throwing up a large cloud of smoke. 321. Mysterious "meteor-like" activity was also reported in the air over Verviers, Belgium, on September 28th and 29th. 322.

More "ghost rockets" were spotted in the sky above the Dutch-German border by British Army personnel. In the Lingen-Meppen area the "missiles" passed over heading westward. 323.

Brig. General David Sarnoff returned to the U.S. after a trip to Europe. He gave a speech at New York's Waldorf-Astoria Hotel on September 30th. The New York Times, reporting on the testimonial dinner, published some information about Sarnoff's remarks: "...Sarnoff told of visiting Sweden recently and said he is convinced that the 'ghost bombs' are no myth but real missiles." 324.

On October 3rd the Kremlin again used the Moscow magazine, New Times, to deliver a strong protest against allegations made in the Western press. The New Times blasted rumors about the production of "mysterious kinds of weapons" supposedly being manufactured in the Soviet occupied zone of Germany. A story attributed to the Reuter news service on August 22nd, asserting that the Russians were developing a "new and very powerful rocket--the German V-4" and that "the Russians (were) continuing German experiments," was the apparent target of Soviet wrath. The Communists termed the sources of information mentioned by Reuters as "some mythical representatives of the Socialist Unity Party." Why did the Soviets wait five weeks to answer this particular charge? Did Washington and Whitehall just then, at the end of September, deliver a secret ultimatum to Moscow, warning Stalin of dire consequences if the ghost rockets were attempts at intimidating Western Europe? Had Eisenhower been sent to London as a military precaution to await a Russian reaction to the protest note? No one knows. One thing we do know, however, is that Moscow did forbid aircraft traffic over different nations of Russian-occupied Europe for several days at this time, a move which indicated that troop movements of major proportions were in progress. 325.

Journalist Marquis Childs reported on October 7th that he was on the scene in Stockholm and that he had polled numerous persons there concerning the flying bombs. While the Swedes he interviewed expressed various opinions on the reality of the ghost rockets, he did find an American he

knew to be extremely reliable who asserted that he had definitely seen a ghost rocket clearly and that there was no doubt of the object's existence. Generally, the Swedish ghost rocket witnesses he talked to he evaluated as "careful observers." Also he found that the strange missiles were still a mystery and that the number of daily sightings were tapering off. As for rocket fragments, no amount of questioning of official sources could uncover definite information. He allowed for the possibility that the existence of physical evidence may have been classified.³²⁶

The theory that "spook bombs" burn up completely received some confirmation Monday in an official British report, according to the London-Telegram on October 8th. Rocket expert W. H. Wheeler wrote that rockets made of plastic and metals of light weight were under construction. The range of such new missiles were supposed to be double of those of steel construction and could be propelled 50 percent faster, he claimed. Moreover, he went on to say, when the fuel is consumed, the rocket is burned up.³²⁷

While the bulk of the ghost rocket activity had shifted to the south of Europe, occasional sightings were still being reported in Scandinavia.

On October 10, 1946, the Swedish Defense Staff spoke about the ghost rockets after a long silence. The London Times carried Reuter's account of the official announcement:

"The Swedish defense staff have issued a report in which they reached the conclusion that most of the meteor-like objects, often described as 'rockets,' reported over Sweden between May 1 and September 30 were ordinary celestial phenomena. Experts reached this conclusion after sifting over 1,000 reports about the passage of these objects.

"The report stated that some of the objects could not be identified, but there was nothing to show they were V-bombs or any other type of projectile.

"'Most of the observations are vague and must be treated very skeptically,' the report states. 'In some cases, however, clear unambiguous observations have been made which cannot be explained as natural phenomena, Swedish aircraft, or imagination on the part of the observer. Echo, radio and other equipment registered readings but gave no clue as to the nature of the objects.'

"It was stated that fragments were found which were reported to have fallen from projectiles, but analysis showed them to be ordinary coke or slag."³²⁸

The Reuter account of the Swedish military communique was complete except for mentioning the exact percentage of the "unknowns."

This odd omission by British Reuters news service was not made by the American INS. The American news agency spotlighted the fact that the percentage of "unknowns" was quite high. The INS story also put a little different slant on what the Swedes thought the "sky phenomenon" might be:

"The Swedish Defense Staff issued a communique Thursday night disclosing that at least 20 percent of the mysterious missiles seen in the skies over Sweden have been identified as foreign weapons of an unknown nature.

"The balance of the so-called 'ghost rockets' and 'spook bombs' were identified as ordinary celestial phenomena, such as meteors." 329.

Furthermore, researchers have overlooked a story filed by the INS the day before the Swedes made public its ghost rocket report. On October 9th the INS learned that the Swedes were arranging "defensive measures" against the "spook bombs."

The story read:

"Sweden's defense minister disclosed tonight that defensive measures are being taken against the mysterious 'spook bombs' or rockets which have been reported flying over the country since early in June.

"In an exclusive interview, Defense Minister Alan Vought stated that radar equipment and the Swedish air force are being employed to track down the weird missiles in the hope of discovering their origin.

"It was the first official announcement on defense measures against the rockets that has been made by Sweden or any other country in which similar missiles have been reported.

"Swedish observers who have witnessed the strange, sudden appearance of the projectiles have reported they appeared to come from the south, from the direction of the Baltic coast of Germany, which is controlled by the Russians. The Russians have denied sending up any rockets, experimental or otherwise." 330.

The Svenska Dagbladet's version went this way:

"The first reports of strange luminous phenomena over the country began to come in to the press and military authorities at the end of May 1946. By the beginning of July hardly a day went by in succession without a large number of reports from various parts of the country. A similar increase occurred again at the beginning of August. In between the frequency of reports has been relatively low and during September fell to about a single case a day.

"Through collaboration with astronomers it was clear that the two 'peaks' in July and August probably were caused by meteors or meteorities.

"Of about 1,000 reports which come in to the defense staff it is believed about 80 percent are really celestial luminous phenomena. The remaining reports concern objects of various shapes, as a rule combined with light and sometimes also sound phenomena. Most observations are very vague and must be treated with great skepticism. In some cases quite unequivocally precise observations are made which cannot be assigned to natural phenomena or fantasy productions and neither, according to investigations made, can be considered Swedish airplanes. Some projectiles trajectories cannot satisfactorily be explained. Out of no case of crashes has come forth anything which can be considered as material which might issue from some fallen space projectile. In certain lakes considerable search effort has been made because of supposed crashes. So far, however, no find has turned up which can be presumed to come from a weapon of the V-type." 331.

Two years later (December 1948), a U.S. Intelligence Officer penned his own opinion of the Swedish interpretation of the number of "unknowns." This officer, a Colonel Donald L. Hardy, first noted that astronomical advisors had determined that the two peaks of "ghost rocket" reports in July and August 1946 were most likely to have been caused by meteor showers.

Moreover:

"Three ground radar stations and two radar equipped destroyers cooperated in maintaining watch. The radar equipment was Swedish modified British sets of fairly short range and were not operated on a 24-hour basis; however, no unexplained sightings were made with this equipment.

"Conclusion: Although the possibility exists that objects have traversed Sweden and its adjacent waters, no proof has been obtained to confirm such flights in any instance.

"The Sweden Defense Staff has no proof any UFO passed over Sweden.

"Reports were funneled to a special section of the Defense Staff where sightings were plotted." 332.

Colonel Hardy stated further:

"The cooperation of the Defense Staff in securing this information was undoubtedly given in an effort to emphasize their need for addi-

tional U.S. radar equipment. The Swedish Air Board had previously negotiated with the Bendix Corporation for 20 THS sets but had been refused an export license by our State Department. The members of the Defense Staff, to whom I talked, were eager to point out the good use to which such equipment could be put to use for both ourselves and the Swedes as instanced by our mutual interest in unidentified flying objects. However, I am convinced that our refusal to grant an export license for such equipment will do more good in implementing our national policy, as expressed in the National Security Council document NSC 28/1, than would the information we might receive from the use of such equipment here." 333.

On October 15, 1946, the Belgium Defense Minister issued a statement. Apparently referring to mysterious "meteor-like objects" reported over the country late in September, he insisted that an official inquiry had shown that nothing of an unknown nature had overflown that nation's territory. 334.

As late as October 21st there was still ghost rocket news:

"A peculiar object which fell into a lake in southern Sweden is now the object of an investigation. Two persons who were located on the lakeshore, heard a whistling sound in the air, something like when a flock of birds passes by. They then observed an object, which came over the treetops going at a low altitude. It was dart-shaped, supplied with something like short wings and a ball-shaped tip. The projectile fell directly out from the shoreline and probably exploded on impact." 335.

The U.S. State Department announced on October 23rd the approval of the sale of 90 P-51 warplanes to Sweden. Swedish Legation officials in Washington, D.C. insisted that the strengthening of their country's air force had: "...no connection with Sweden's efforts to trace the mysterious 'rockets' reported over the country in recent months." 336.

In spite of doubts, rumors persisted that the Russians were responsible for the ghost rocket excitement:

"Stolpmuende on the Baltic, 125 miles north-east of Stettin, is the Russian base from which mysterious rocket bombs have been fired over Sweden, according to a young German who arrived in Sweden yesterday as a refugee. After the end of the war, he said he saw the Russians carry the main equipment from the Peenemuende base to Stolpmuende, where the Germans had smaller V-weapon sites. The refugee declared he often heard the 'thunder' as projectiles were launched across the Baltic toward Sweden." 337.

Were the ghost rockets meteors or Russian missiles? Or, one might ask, were the objects "something else?" Consider the following news items dated November 20, 1946:

"--The Moscow radio reported Wednesday that a meteor which resembled 'a white-hot flying cannon ball' was sighted November 12 by the Leningrad Arctic institute's polar station at Profidence bay, at the northeast tip of Siberia across Bering straight from Alaska.

"The meteor was observed for twenty-two seconds at a height of twenty to twenty-five degrees from the horizon,' the report said. 'Its trajectory was almost a straight line. It produced the impression of a white-hot flying cannon ball. Its velocity was relatively low, far below that of falling stars. The meteor was of a reddish-violet color and its huge tail was light blue.'

"The radio description, particularly as to velocity, coincided to some degree with that of meteor-like objects sighted above Scandinavian countries in recent months." 338.

The special Swedish committee to study the sightings of strange sky objects held the last of 15 meetings on December 1, 1946. The committee, chaired by Colonel Bengt Jacobsson, drafted a letter to the Commander-in-Chief of the Swedish Defense Staff on December 23, 1946. The development of the investigation was detailed*and then the letter touched on the source material:

"Information has been received chiefly from four sources: (a) visual observations; (b) radar trackings; (c) radio observations; (d) reports from special sources.

"The largest number of reports were visual observations. Incidents were reported throughout the entire country with a concentration in the middle of Sweden.

"On 9 July and 11 August, luminous phenomena were observed at the same time over almost all of Sweden. It is possible that these phenomena were of a celestial nature, and if they are excluded, approximately 50% concern luminous phenomena and the rest concern observations of 'real' objects. These objects are mainly of two different types: (a) 'spool-shaped' without any wings or stabilizing surfaces (42%), (b) 'spool-shaped' and provided with wings (8%).

* These details were given earlier in the text of this booklet--the author.

"The reports have been sent in by various categories of observers, among these several trained observers, military persons, technicians, etc.

"Approximately 100 impacts have been reported, together with fragments from 30 of these. All have been investigated by the Defense Research Institution. It has been impossible to make certain that any of the objects originated as parts of projectiles or rockets; they have generally been attributed to other sources. At Kolmjarv, located close to Upper Kalix, a positive impact was reported in July by two different observers. An intensive investigation gave no result."* 339.

The committee offered the following conclusion:

"Despite the extensive effort which has been carried out with all available means, there is no actual proof that a test of rocket projectiles has taken place over Sweden.

"The committee has therefore been forced to decide that the investigation has been unsuccessful and that it was useless to continue the activity in its present form and with the present limited resources. Even if the main part of the report can be referred to as celestial phenomena, the committee cannot dismiss certain facts as being merely public imagination."340.

This admission that not all reports were due to celestial phenomena and that the residue had considerable significance, is worth remembering as the most important aspect of the ghost rocket mystery.

The Swedes did have a few ideas about the unexplained reports:

"From knowledge of the German activity on the Baltic Coast during the war and developments later on, one cannot deny the implications of the reports which have been received through various sources." 341.

The British shared the Swedes' conclusion that "something" unusual had occurred but suggested no answer.

*Portions of the document dealing with witness reliability, radar trackings, and geographical plots, are still classified "secret" by the Swedish military as of 1982.

The British Air Ministry remarked:

"Insufficient facts are as yet available to permit any definite conclusion to be reached at this stage. Yet it is difficult to believe that all, or even the majority, of such observations as those given above are imaginary, and it must be accepted that at least on the two days, 9th July and 11th August, something was seen by the 200 - 300 observers on each day. It is difficult to account for all the incidents as natural phenomena, especially as the bulk of them were seen in daylight." 342.

We have very little information concerning the official American reaction. American Intelligence compiled a list of European radio reports which were submitted for evaluation on April 9, 1947. In the brief introduction to the list there was no mention of "celestial phenomena."

The American Intelligence report's introduction stated:

"As reported by foreign broadcasts, technical information on rockets and guided missiles activities in Denmark is generally negligible. The following texts, however, do contain some limited data. (mainly speculative) on the speed, dimensions and altitude of flying objects reportedly observed in Scandinavian countries and in other European countries from the middle of July to October 1946. In compiling the available material, therefore, not only Danish radio but other Scandinavian and European sources are cited." 343.

Another fragment that tells of American interest comes from the files of the FBI. In an exchange between FBI Liaison Section Special Agent S. Wesley Reynolds and Lt. Colonel George D. Garrett of Army Intelligence, it was revealed:

"...when flying objects were reported over Sweden the 'high brass' of the War Department exerted tremendous pressure on the Air Force's Intelligence to identify these sightings." 344.

By the time the above exchange took place, American Intelligence had a sky object mystery of its own, the riddle of the "flying saucers."

The forementioned exchange continued:

"...in contrast to this, we have reported sightings of unknown objects over the United States, and the 'high brass' appeared to be totally unconcerned." 345.

The "high brass" was not unconcerned, however, the faked indifference, and the riddle of the "flying saucers," is another story.

THE END

"Project 1946."

The ghost rocket mystery has always been one of special interest to UFO researchers because it is considered to be something of a precursor to the 'flying saucer' riddle.

Efforts have been made to research the Swedish sky phenomenon, this work is one attempt, but so far no Swedish UFO expert has done justice to the full extent of the Scandinavian "projectile" excitement of 1946. Swedish UFO researchers are a natural choice for the task, yet until recently none were equal to the challenge. Now, it seems, there is some hope a complete research job will be done. Anders Liljegren and Clas Svahn, of the Archives for UFO research, Norrköping, Sweden, have teamed up launch: Project 1946.

The advantage of being Swedish immediately produced results. When contacted by Liljegren and Svahn, the Swedish Defense Staff confirmed the existence of four volumes of "space projectile" documents in its archives. Access to the material was made possible because Liljegren had secured permission from the Swedish Secretary of War. Some 1,000 pages of material have been copied that might have value and this collection has been under review for some time now.

To supplement this material persons named in the documents are being located and interviewed. These individuals include ghost rocket witnesses and former government officials.

Other plans contemplated:

- A more complete search of Swedish newspapers. It is estimated that some 200 Swedish dailies have yet to be combed for "projectile reports."

- A computer catalog of reports is envisioned to facilitate analysis of data.

- To document contacts between the Intelligence agencies of different nations concerning the ghost rockets.

- To check for Swedish reports of possible sky phenomena before the year 1946.

- To catalogue literature dealing with the subject.

About the only oversight is the the apparent lack of plans to comb more extensively the press of Finland, Norway, and Denmark. Other than that, one might be concerned about the scope of the project, whether or not it is too ambitious and thus never be completed. Hopefully it will.

FOOTNOTES

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11. Helsingfors, Finland. 10 June 46 (TT).
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14. Morgon-Tidningen. 13 June 46, p.5.
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